

Photo Feature: P.7

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चाडपर्व हाम्रो सांस्कृतिक धरोहरहरू हुन्।
विधीहरूको संरक्षण गरौं ।
चाडपर्वको मागमा फुजुल सर्व वजारी
उत्पादनमूलक कार्यमा लागौं गरौं ।

नेपाल सरकार
सुदूर तथा सुदूर पश्चिमी मन्त्रालय
सुदूर तथा सुदूर पश्चिमी विभाग

Toward Greater Progress of China-Nepal Friendship across the Himalayas

■ Xi Jinping

I will soon pay a state visit to Nepal, a friendly neighbor of China, at the invitation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari. The visit will be my first, yet the country is no strange place to me. I have long wanted to come to Nepal and see for myself its majestic mountains and rivers and unique culture. I have also met in China visiting Nepali leaders on many occasions and developed with them a deep friendship. I now very much look forward to stepping on this wonderful land to renew friendship and explore cooperation with my Nepali friends. I hope we can together draw up a new blueprint for our bilateral ties.

China and Nepal are close neighbors linked by the same mountains and rivers and enjoy a long-standing friendship. More than 1,600 years ago, the Chinese and Nepali monks Fa Hien and Buddhahadra visited each other's countries and together translated Buddhist scriptures into Chinese. Their translation works have remained influential to this day. In China's Tang Dynasty (618-907), the Nepali Princess Bhrikuti was married to Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo, while the Chinese monk Huen Tsang visited Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha, and left many precious written accounts of his pilgrimage. Then in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), Arniko, the renowned Nepali architect, led a group of artisans to China and presided over the construction of the White Stupa at

investments in Nepal exceeding US\$300 million last year. Nepal has been an active participant in the Belt and Road cooperation, and is working with China on a number of infrastructure projects to build or upgrade highways, ports, airports and power plants. A trans-Himalayan connectivity network is thus taking shape, which will serve not just our two countries but also the region as a whole.

China and Nepal are good neighbors benefiting from people-to-people exchanges
The Zhong Hua Chinese Buddhist



for China and Nepal to respond to the call of our times and step up cooperation for a better future. Working together, the two countries may do just the following:

Deepen strategic communication

It is important that we adopt a strategic and long-term perspective and draw up a blueprint for our bilateral relationship to take it to a new height in this new era. We need to maintain high-level exchanges, enhance political mutual trust, and continue to render mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests. We may also have more exchanges and experience sharing on governance and development to deliver greater benefits to our two peoples.

Broaden practical cooperation

We need to make greater efforts to develop a Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network across the Himalayas. China supports Chinese business investment in Nepal in the four priority cooperation areas of trade and investment, post-disaster reconstruction, energy, and tourism. China welcomes Nepal's participation in the second China International Import Expo to promote exports of its specialty products to China. What's more, China will continue to support post-disaster reconstruction and do what it can to support and assist the betterment of people's lives in Nepal.

Expand people-to-people exchanges

It is important that we encourage

Exclusive

the Miaoying Temple in Beijing among several magnificent structures over the country. There are but a few examples of our past interactions that have inspired a lasting friendship between our peoples.

Since China and Nepal established diplomatic relations in 1955, our two countries have respected each other and trusted and supported each other, setting an example of equality, friendship, and mutually beneficial cooperation between neighboring countries.

China and Nepal are good friends sharing mutual respect and trust

Following the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, we have successfully demarcated our boundaries, turning the great Himalayas into a real bond between our two countries. We support each other on issues of our respective core interests. Nepal stands firm in upholding the one-China policy and prohibits any force from using its territory for anti-China activities. China firmly supports Nepal in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and in pursuing a development path tailored to its national reality.

China and Nepal are good partners for mutually beneficial cooperation

Nepal is China's important trade and development partner in South Asia, with two-way trade reaching US\$1.1 billion and Chinese

Monastery in Lumbini stands as another symbol of our religious and cultural interactions. Nepal is the first South Asian country to be designated an approved destination for Chinese tourists. Between our two countries, there are about 60 flights every week, and over 300,000 mutual visits every year. Eleven pairs of sister cities have been established between the two sides. These growing exchanges have brought our people ever closer and added impetus to the development of both countries.

China and Nepal are good brothers who always stand alongside each other

When a devastating earthquake hit Wenchuan in 2008, the government and people of Nepal made generous donations in support of the rescue and relief efforts in China. Likewise, in the aftermath of the massive earthquake in Nepal in 2015, the Chinese government and people rushed to the aid of Nepal by conducting big rescue operations and supporting post-disaster reconstruction. These are shining examples of how China and Nepal look out for each other like brothers do.

While the Chinese government and people are vigorously pursuing their vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepal", the Chinese government and people are making big strides toward the "two century goals". With the aspirations and future of our people closely linked, it is only natural

more exchanges and cooperation in such areas as education, youth and tourism, and support our airlines in opening more direct flights to increase mutual visits. China supports Nepal in hosting "Visit Nepal Year 2020", and will encourage more Chinese tourists to visit Nepal. China will give more government scholarships to outstanding young Nepali and help train more professionals needed in Nepal's development endeavor. China welcomes more Nepali students to China.

Enhance security cooperation

China supports Nepal in building law-enforcement capacity and will carry out law-enforcement training cooperation with Nepal. We need to scale up border defense contacts to fight transnational crimes more effectively and ensure the safety of our nationals and the smooth flow of trade. We also need to strengthen practical cooperation in mil-to-mil visits, personnel training, and equipment and technologies.

The Nepali often say, "Drop by drop is the water pot filled." There is also a Chinese saying: "The flame runs high when everyone adds wood to the fire." I am convinced that as long as our two countries carry forward our tradition of friendship and keep increasing our exchanges and cooperation, we will together take our friendship across the Himalayas to a new height.

(The writer is the President of the People's Republic of China)



President Xi's visit will further Nepal-China ties, says PM Oli

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli Thursday said that the upcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping would raise the historic and cordial relation between two neighbouring countries Nepal and China to a new height.

Speaking at a discussion programme with former Prime Ministers, foreign ministers and experts today, the Prime Minister said that the long and strong relationship between two countries would gain new heights with the high level visit.

The discussion programme was organised at official residence of the Prime Minister at Baluwatar. Chinese President Xi is coming to Nepal for two-day state visit on October 12 and 13.

Prime Minister Oli said that the government would focus on discussions to strengthen the economic cooperation with China putting national interest of the country at the centre.

The Prime Minister said that

the government would discuss the investment model of Kerung-Kathmandu Railway during the high level Chinese visit to Nepal.

"We will hold discussions on issues of long-term benefits and needs with China, but equal priority will

The government would discuss the investment model of Kerung-Kathmandu Railway during the high level Chinese visit to Nepal.

be given to the issues of short-term needs and cooperation," the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Oli said that the government was taking very clear policy on foreign affairs of the country to maintain balance in its foreign relations.

"National interest, justness in relationship and international credibility are the three foundations assumed by the government to maintain balance in foreign relations. There is no ambiguity in our foreign policy," the Prime Minister said.

Former Prime Minister and president of Nepali Congress Sher Bahadur Deuba said that the visit of President Xi was a great opportunity for Nepal. Deuba wished for the success of Xi's visit to Nepal.

In the discussion, former Prime Ministers Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Madhav Kumar Nepal, Jhala Nath Khanal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and former Chairman of Council of Ministers Khila Raj Regmi had given suggestions to the government regarding the high level visit from China.

In the discussion, the government had informed former Prime Ministers, foreign ministers and experts about the preparations for the upcoming visit of President Xi.

Signing of bilateral agreements on schedule

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to pay a state visit to Nepal on October 12 and 13. He is arriving here on Saturday.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) confirmed that President Xi would come to Nepal on a two-day state visit at the friendly invitation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

Bhandari had invited the Chinese President during her Beijing visit in April to attend the Second Belt and Road Conference.

President Xi would meet his counterpart Bhandari and hold delegation level talks with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, MoFA stated in its visit announcement,

adding, President Bhandari would host a banquet in honour of President Xi and his delegation.

President Xi and Prime Minister Oli would hold delegation level bilateral talks. Following the talks, both leaders will witness the signing

two-day visit to India. Xi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be meeting at Mamallapuram near Chennai on October 11 and 12 for the second 'informal summit' after the Wuhan Summit in April last year.

The top leaders of China

Senior leaders of Nepal will call on President Xi during his sojourn in Kathmandu.

of bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding, the statement added.

Senior leaders of Nepal will call on President Xi during his sojourn in Kathmandu.

President Xi will directly fly to Kathmandu on Saturday afternoon from Chennai after concluding his

and India had met for the first informal summit in Wuhan, China on 27 and 28 April 2018.

"The Chennai Informal Summit will provide an opportunity for the two leaders to continue their discussions on overarching issues of bilateral, regional and global importance and to exchange views

Govt concludes preparations to welcome President Xi

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

The government Thursday said that it has completed all the preparations to welcome President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping for his two-day state visit to Nepal from October 12.

Minister for Communication and Information Technology and the government spokesperson Gokul Prasad Baskota said that all the necessary preparations were completed and the government was keenly waiting to make his visit historical, highly productive, and successful from all perspectives.

"The government is all cautious, serious and decided to make President Xi's state visit to Nepal successful," Minister Baskota said while speaking at a press conference organised to make the cabinet decision public this afternoon at the Ministry.

The government is discussing the prioritized agendas and concerns to make

it ready on the table of bilateral agreement and understanding, Minister Baskota said. Both the bilateral nation's stakeholders are preparing and finalizing the agendas based on mutual interest with positive thinking, he said.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli as part of the preparations to welcome Xi, held meetings with the former Prime Ministers of Nepal, foreign ministers, former ambassadors, scholars and ambassador to China and the outcome and voice of that meeting was only one and that is to make this visit historical.

The government hopes for cooperation and support from all quarters to make Xi's visit a success and complete from all perspectives, he said.

The meeting participants have also suggested the government to utilize the visit to make the relation of political leaders and parties reliable.

The government is set to raise agendas related to multi-dimensional connectivity network, under which basically connectivity issues like roads, railways,

fiber optics, cross-border electricity transmission line will be on top priorities, Minister Baskota said.

The government of Nepal is eager to join the connectivity approach of China as dreamed by President Xi himself through Belt and Road Initiatives, he said.

The government is also likely to raise the issues of the Araniko highway up-gradation project, the main gateway between Nepal and China, Rasuwa-Ghahare-Kathmandu tunnel project, and border management. There are subjects related to Kimathanka and Korala as well.

Not only this, the government has also kept some issues of opening north-south corridors, he said.

During the scheduled dialogue between Prime Minister Oli and President Xi, these agendas will get further nurtured, Minister Baskota said.

Connectivity is the medium through which development of Nepal is possible as it would provide a way for linking our productivity and connect the consumers

of the two countries.

"We are hopeful to take this visit to a new height of attraction from its results, message and cooperation perspectives," Minister Baskota said.

As China is a country having trouble-free relation, people of Nepal have also been waiting keenly for a visit of this level from China and the government has not expected any such non-cooperation during this visit, he said.

When asked about possibility of giving a public holiday during his visit on Sunday, Minister Baskota said that the government had not taken such decision yet.

The government has also put in place tight security mechanism throughout his visit, he said.

Meanwhile, the cabinet meeting held on October 4 took various six decisions. They include mandate to work as executive director of Special Economic Zone Authority, Nepal (SEZ) to joint secretary Ram Chandra Dhakal until appointment

of next official, and acceptance of grant assistance of Rs. 2.71 billion for school sector reform programme to be provided by the World Bank.

Similarly, the government has approved 60 temporary posts of gazetted officers for fulfillment in various projects under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resource and Irrigation for the fiscal year 2019/20 A.D.

The cabinet meeting promoted Brigadier General Ashok Raj Sigdel and Gokul Bhandari as Major General and five colonels including Kumar Babu Thapa to the post of Brigadier General. The government decided to allow using national forest area for the road up-gradation project along Nakkhu-Bhainsepati-Bungamati road section.

The cabinet meeting has approved secretary level visit from Ministry of Water Resource to India for taking part in the 7th meeting of Joint Operation Committee and Joint Working Group (JWG) under Nepal-India Power Trade Agreement.



Agendas related to multi-dimensional connectivity network will on focus, under which basically connectivity issues like roads, railways, fiber optics, and cross-border electricity transmission line will get priorities.

Chairman of Alibaba Group Jack Ma speaks during a seminar in Bali, Indonesia. An annual survey of China's wealthiest businesspeople found they got richer this year despite a tariff war with Washington and slowing economic growth.

(photo: AP)



NEPSE sees increase in volume of transaction

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10:

The capital market, opened after a week-long Dashain vacation on Thursday, saw a significant increase in the volume of transaction.

Nepal Stock Exchange (NEPSE) saw transaction of 232,619 unit shares worth Rs. 63.84 million of 121 companies in 1,152 transactions on Thursday.

In the week just before Dashain vacation, the average daily transaction in NEPSE was around Rs. 22 million.

Shares of Prabhu Bank Limited witnessed the biggest turnover on Thursday's transaction. Shares of Prabhu Bank worth Rs. 25.5 million were bought and sold in the stock exchange today.

In today's transaction, the NEPSE index declined by 0.39 points and closed at 1149.01 points.

Sub-indices of



banking, development bank, hydropower, finance, non-life insurance and mutual

fund recorded increasing trend while that of hotels, manufacturing, others,

microfinance and life insurance groups saw decreasing trend on Thursday.

Mountain goat trading keeps Dashain abuzz in Pokhara

Smita Adhikari
Pokhara, Oct. 10

Kaji Budha of Kaikey village of Dolpa district spends every Dashain in Pokhara just to sell his chyangras (mountain goats).

The chayangra trade is a major source of his income to run the expenditure for his six-member family. He has spent almost two decades in this trade. He came to know about this trade while assisting his father who also had spent his whole life selling mountain goats.

Kaji's thirst for Chyangra trade have not ended though he is not satisfied with the profit he gets after selling his animals which he brings from Mustang every year.

It is because his

attachment to the people of Pokhara with whom he is dealing since decade.

"I am used to sell chyangras in Pokhara, no matter whether I get profit or loss" he said shedding light on his past. He added that the number of Chyangra had died while ferrying them to Pokhara passing through many trails and treks.

Urgen Tamang of Khalanga Jumla brought 400 goats to Pokhara this year. He is not sure he would earn profit or suffer losses. He invested Rs.30 million as he paid Rs 16,000 for a goat and selling it on Rs. 23, 000.

Pokhara hosts thousands of Chyangra from Dolpa and Mustang every year with the starting up of Dashain festival. As one of the major

focus of public of Pokhara and areas around, it has been the valued identification of Dashain for people here. Purano Tundikhel of Pokhara-1 is a major location where the goats are brought and kept. The flow of people to buy Chyangra picked on the day of Fulpati.

Most of the Chyangra sellers here were from the high altitude Himalaya region like Dolpa, Upper Mustang, and Jumla also.

This year hundreds of goats were brought here and kept at 16 cages made by the local manager National Higher Secondary School. But, ward Chair of Pokhara – 1 Sharada Parajuli informed the number of mountain goats imported to Pokhara has decreased every passing year.

US, China to begin 13th round of trade talks

AP
Washington, Oct 10

U.S. and Chinese negotiators are scheduled to begin a 13th round of talks Thursday aimed at ending a 15-month trade war that is worrying global investors and weighing on the world economy. Chinese Vice Premier Liu He will lead a delegation into meetings in Washington with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Shares mixed as trade talks resume

AP
Tokyo, Oct 10

World shares were mixed on Thursday, with benchmarks falling in Europe after a mixed day in Asia.

Markets have grown increasingly jittery as investors pondered whether talks on the trade war between the U.S. and China that are due to resume in Washington later in the day will make much progress.

Germany's DAX lost 0.5% to 12,040.23. In France, the CAC 40 shed 0.2% to 5,488.65. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.4% to 7,138.61. Wall Street looked set for early losses, with the future contract for the Dow Jones Industrial Average down 0.4% and that for the S&P 500 off 0.3%.

In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.5% to finish at 21,551.98.

Women's cooperatives supply goats worth Rs. 35m in Dashain

By Our Correspondent
Kawaswoti Oct. 10

Three cooperatives of Nawalpur sold goats worth Rs. 35 million during Dashain festival.

Cooperatives had sold goats collected from farmers in Dashain market held in collection centres of cooperatives.

Lekbeshi Samajik Udhaymi Mahila Cooperatives located at Jhyalbash of Hupsekot Rural Municipality alone sold goats worth Rs. 28 million from its collection centre.

Sushila Pariyar, manager of Lekbeshi Samajik Udhaymi Mahila Cooperatives, said that it sold 2,763 goats from its collection centre in nine days starting from Ghatasthapana to Mahanawami.

Most of the goats sold by the cooperatives were collected from hilly areas of Hupsekot Rural Municipality, she said.

Goats supplied by cooperatives were sold to local buyers as well as traders coming from Chitwan, Pokhara and Kathmandu, Pariyar said.

The Lekbeshi Cooperatives is selling goats collected from farmers for the last five years by taking nominal profit. Due to the service of cooperatives, goats reared by farmers have got easy access to the market and consumers and traders have been saved from deceits.

Similarly, Mainaghat Samajik Udhaymi Mahila Cooperative of Mainaghat sold goats worth Rs. 2.5 million during Dashain festival.

Manju Khanal, chairperson of the cooperative, said that they

sold goats at relatively low price during Dashain by taking very nominal profit.

"We sold live goats at a rate of Rs. 460 per kilogram by purchasing them at Rs. 450 from farmers. The price of live goats in the local market was around Rs. 550 per kilogram during Dashain," Khanal said.

Another Arun Jyoti Samajik Mahila Udhaymi Cooperatives located at Tamashpur of Madhyabindu Municipality also sold goats worth Rs. 4.5 million during Dashain festival.

More Nepalis going abroad for Dashain holidays than before

By CK Khanal
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

The trend of Nepali people celebrating the Dashain holidays outside the country is on rise in the recent years thanks to increased purchasing power and culture of spending leisure in new places.

Due to the long-holidays, mainly in the educational institutions, the Dashain has been an appropriate time for Nepali citizens to make family trips inside and outside the country.

"We have planned a family trip to Thailand," Shiva Duwadi, a lecturer in a private college of Kathmandu, shared recently. "We have three brothers currently living in a nuclear family. We will be in Thailand during the Dashain for a week."

Duwadi expected to return home for receiving tika from his old-aged father, who did not join the family trip.

Duwadi family is just an example.

Thousands of other families and groups of like-minded people are going on foreign tours to different countries in the holidays.

C.N Pandey, president of Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents (NATTA), said that the trend of Nepali people going abroad during holidays has increased in the last five years.

"Five years ago, a small number of people used to go abroad during the Dahsain, but around 7,000 holiday packages have been sold this year," Pandey said.

He informed that around 3,000 to 3,500 such packages were sold for last year's Dashain.

Main destinations for Nepali outbound tourists were Thailand, Bali (Indonesia), Malaysia and Dubai, Pandey said.

He said that the increase foreign tour packages had caused a decline in sales of domestic packages this year.

"Increase in the outbound tourists

of the country at the cost of domestic tourism is not good," he said.

He said that most of Nepali travel lovers used to go to Pokhara, Chitwan, Sauraha, Rara (Mugu), Ilam and Mustang for long trips in previous years.

According to the Department of Immigration (DoI), a total of 95,440 Nepali people left the country from Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in the month of September 2019. The number was only 83,676 on September 2018.

Due to the festival, the trend of Nepali migrant workers to go outside used to be significantly low during the months of September and October while huge numbers of migrant workers returned home in these months, said Ram Chandra Tiwari, spokesperson of DoI.

In the month of September 2019, a total of 1,28,275 Nepalis have returned to the country through TIA, he said. The number was 101030 in the same month of 2018.

Outlook for Chinese banks stable: Moody's

Xinhua
Beijing, Oct. 10

Global credit rating agency Moody's has maintained its stable outlook for the Chinese banking system, citing stable liquidity and adequate capitalization.

Accommodative government policies will support the asset quality of Chinese banks over the next 12 to 18 months, while their capital and liquidity will remain adequate, Yulia Wan, vice president and senior analyst with Moody's, said in a report.

The banks' asset performance will also benefit from state-owned enterprise borrowers' mostly stable debt repayment capacity and banks' acceleration in non-performing loan

disposal, according to the report.

China has vowed to keep its prudent monetary policy "neither too tight nor too loose" while maintaining market liquidity at a reasonably ample level in 2019.

The country's central bank announced last month a broad-based reduction in the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for financial institutions and a targeted RRR cut, which would release about 900 billion yuan (about 127 billion U.S. dollars) of long-term capital in total.

The moves can increase the sources of funds for financial institutions to support the real economy and reduce the annual capital cost of banks by about 15 billion yuan, according to the central bank.

Investment climate improving, says Dhakal

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct 10

Vice-president of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and Employers Council chairman, Chandra Prasad Dhakal has said the investment climate was improving in Nepal due to the labour and social security related laws and policies effectively in place.

He asserted that the relations between the employers and workers were improving in the country in recent days due to these laws and this would have positive impact on sustainable industrial development and labour relations.

Dhakal said this while addressing the international

conference related to labour and social dialogue held in The Hague, Netherlands on Tuesday.

The Employers Council chairman said these laws and policies obtained after holding long and the required consultations among the employers, labourers, trade unions and the government have helped make the relations between the employers, workers and trade unions more cordial and stronger.

Stating Nepal has started making efforts for having economic development in the country along with the promulgation of a new constitution issued after a decade-long conflict and the peace process, Dhakal informed that the new laws related to labour as well as social

security have been achieved through the special initiation of the FNCCI, the common organization of the Nepali entrepreneurs.

An environment of industrial development and investment has been created in Nepal with the formation of a stable government having two-thirds majority backing, Dhakal, a national industrialist, said.

On the occasion, he urged the world's investors to invest in Nepal, adding that there are immense opportunities for investing in several sectors including tourism, hydro-electricity, agriculture entrepreneurship and infrastructure development in Nepal, a country rich in natural resources.

The FNCCI vice-president said the private sector has made

significant contribution to the economic development of Nepal and the government has also recognized this. He stated that the contribution of the private sector to Nepal's economic development was about 60 per cent, adding agriculture is the backbone of Nepal's economic development.

The conference was organized by FNV Netherlands, an international trade union organization of the Netherlands. Labour ministers, employers, trade union leaders and representatives from various countries participated in the conference.

According to Dhakal, the experiences related to trade union of Nepal, Peru and Ghana were given priority in the conference this time.

Notification of Intention to Award the Contract

Pursuant to Clause 42 of Instructions to Bidders of the Bidding document, this is to inform all the concerned that, NEA intends to award the contract for the following Tenders to the lowest evaluated substantially Responsive bidder.

Tender No	Lowest evaluated substantially Responsive bidder	Amount (Excluding VAT)
ICB/DCSD-075/76-12/04: Supply and Delivery of Steel Tubular Poles (Nepalgunj, Attaria)	Rajesh Metal Crafts Pvt. Ltd., Nepal	NRs. 730,784,800.00



Nepal Electricity Authority
Distribution and Consumer Services Directorate
Durbarmarga, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel.: +977(01)4153145 / Fax: +977(01)4153146



Nepal Electricity Authority
Distribution and Consumer Services Directorate
Durbarmarg, Kathmandu

Invitation for Electronic Bids

Contract Identification Nos.: NCB/DCSD-076/77-02
The first date of publication : 11 October 2019

- The Distribution and Consumer Services, Directorate, NEA invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for:
NCB/DCSD-076/77-02 : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 4WD DOUBLE CAB PICKUP TRUCK
- The mode of procurement is National Competitive Bidding procedures.
- Eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at Distribution and Consumer Services Directorate, Material Management Division, Durbarmarg, Kathmandu (Ph. No.01-4153152, email: mmddcsd@gmail.com) or may visit PPMO e-GP system www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp.
- Bidding documents is available online and can be downloaded from the e-GP system. Interested bidders shall register in the e-GP system and deposit the cost of bidding document amounting a non-refundable fee of NRs 10,000 in the following bank account.
Name of the Bank : **Everest Bank Ltd., Baghbazar**
Name of the Office : **Nepal Electricity Authority**
Office Account No. : **04400105200628**
- Interested Bidders shall submit the electronic Bids through www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp on or before 12:00 hours, 11 November 2019.
- Bids shall be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend, 14:00 hours on 11 November 2019, respectively at Distribution and Consumer Services Directorate, Material Management Division, Durbarmarg, Kathmandu. Bids must be valid for a period of 120 days counting from the day of bid opening and must be accompanied by a scanned copy of the bid security in pdf format, amounting to a minimum of NRs. 3 million, which shall be valid for a minimum of 30 days beyond the bid validity period.
- If the last date of purchasing and/or submission falls on a government holiday then the next working day shall be considered as the last day. In such a case the bid validity and bid security validity shall remain the same as specified for the original last date of bid submission.
- The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.
- Any Provisions which are not mentioned in this notice will be consistent with prevailing Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2063, NEA Financial and Administration Regulation (2074) and other prevailing Nepalese Rules.

NATION

Dashain helps increase brotherhood: Prez Bhandari

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

President Bidya Devi Bhandari expressed belief that Bada Dashain, the national festival of the Nepali people, would inspire all Nepalis to work for socio-economic prosperity, social unity, mutual harmony and brotherhood along with justice and equality from their respective areas.

In a message of best

wishes on the occasion of Bijaya Dashami, President Bhandari said that the festival would help to create respect and the feelings of deep love towards the nation.

“Our different festivals celebrated with happiness in a traditional manner in the country have been making significant contribution to maintain cultural unity and promote identity as well as to further strengthen originality between geographical, cultural and

linguistic diversity”, reads the President’s message.

Expressing the belief that the Bijaya Dashami would increase enthusiasm and power among all to fulfill national determination, ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepalis’, President Bhandari wished for continued progress to all.

Meanwhile, the 10th day of the Bada Dashain festival was celebrated all over the country with great enthusiasm by receiving

‘tika’, ‘jamara’ and blessings from elders.

On the day of Bijaya Dashami, the Goddess of the festival disposed of in rivers and ponds as per religious rituals (bisarjan). Dashain is the 15-day festival celebrated by Hindus of Nepal and they receive Tika, as a symbol of blessings from the seniors, on the 10th day of the festival.

The worship of Sri Durga Bhawani at Dasainghars over

nine days concludes formally on the day of Bijaya Dashami after the Abhishekh or sprinkling of holy water takes place marking the beginning of tika.

People receive tika and jamara till the full moon day. Tika and jamara are considered the auspicious gifts of the goddess Nawa Durga and they signify prosperity.

Hindus of Nepal continue receiving Tika and blessings from the seniors

for the next five days after the main day, also called Bijaya Dashami.

It is believed that one need not seek an auspicious hour if one undertakes any new assignment, campaign or journey on the auspicious day of Bijaya Dashami.

The Bijaya Dashami festival is celebrated in commemoration of the victory of truth over evil and the victory of divine forces over demonic forces.

Karnali prepares 50 villages as model settlements

RSS
Surkhet, Oct. 10

Preparations are underway to develop 50 villages of Karnali state as model villages within next three years.

The villages of Surkhet, Dailekh and Jajarkot districts of Karnali state to be developed as model villages with facilitation of Model Society Surkhet and partnership of local levels.

Executive Director of Model Society, Surkhet, Lal Bahadur Gharti Magar, said that Simta rural municipality, Chaukune rural municipality, Chingad rural municipality, Panchapuri municipality, Gurbakot municipality of Surkhet, Bheri municipality, Chhedagad municipality, Kuse rural municipality, Junichande rural municipality of Jajarkot and Thatikandh rural municipality and Gurans rural municipality of Dailekh would be developed as model villages.

He said that fourteen management committees have so far been formed in

three districts for the same. Responsibility has been given to the concerned local levels to select villages to develop them as model villages.

The villages selected for model villages have to fulfill 102 assistant indexes making nine main indexes as the basis every year.

Education, health, nutrition, drinking water

The villages of Surkhet, Dailekh and Jajarkot districts of Karnali state to be developed as model villages with facilitation of Model Society Surkhet and partnership of local levels.

and sanitation, livelihood, environment protection, tourism promotion, empowerment and rights are among the nine main indexes.

VP Pun offers best wishes

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct 10

Vice-President Nanda Bahadur Pun extended best wishes for the continued prosperity of the nation as well as for the happiness, peace and good health of all the Nepalis, living in and outside the country, on the occasion of the Bijaya Dashami festival.

In best wishes message on the occasion of Bijaya Dashami, Vice-President Pun said that Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural and

a geographically diverse secular country and the constitution has guaranteed the right to protect and promote all religions and cultures.

Saying all the festivals celebrated in the country have been promoting mutual harmony, brotherhood and national unity among all Nepalis, he expressed the belief that the mutual harmony, brotherhood and national unity would remain intact through the medium of Bijaya Dashami.

“The Bijaya Dashami encourages all to make sovereignty, geographical integrity and freedom of Nepali people stronger by concluding the remaining task of constitution implementation.

The festival also encourages the people for mutual cooperation as well as head them towards the path of collaboration by uniting all Nepalis for building prosperous nation along with national unity, economic social transformation”, reads the message.

Deuba extends greetings

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba extended hearty best wishes to all Nepali sisters and brothers on the occasion of the auspicious occasion of Bijaya Dashami.

Issuing a message of best wishes, leader Deuba said the religious and cultural festival, Bijaya Dashami, a festival that gives the universal message of the victory of justice over injustice and truth over falsehood.

Deuba also described the festival celebrated by the

Nepali society every year in the form of family love, social goodwill, mutual cooperation and unity as a unique culture of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-cultural, multi-linguistic nation, Nepal.

Stating that the nation has already established a strong foundation of a federal, inclusive, democratic republic of Nepal after the conclusion of the election of all three level under the Nepali Congress’ leadership, the NC president stressed that we could transform Nepal into a prosperous nation if we could make the constitution of the federal

democratic Nepal functional and institutionalised.

He expressed that Nepal has established its’ identity as a country spreading the message of peace throughout the world and the importance of Bijaya Dashami festival would be further enhanced if we could internalise it as a festival to be engaged in the overall interest of the country by forgetting any differences among us, if any.

Leader Deuba also expressed the confidence that the festival of Bijaya Dashami would inspire all to take the country ahead on the path of economic prosperity.

Mahara arrested

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Former Speaker Krishna Bahadur Mahara, who is accused of sexual assault on a woman employee of the Parliament Secretariat, has been arrested.

Spokesman of the Metropolitan Police Range Kathmandu, Deputy Superintendent Hobindra Bogati, said Mahara was arrested from his official residence this evening. He said Mahara has been held for investigation after

a complaint of sexual assault was filed against him.

Speaker Mahara had resigned from his post after the woman in an interview given to an online news portal accused him of sexual harassment to her on September 29.

Earlier, the District Court Kathmandu had issued permission to arrest former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, who is accused of sexual misconduct against a woman.

Chief of Kanchanpur Land Revenue Office arrested

RSS
Bhimduttanagar, Oct. 10

Chief of Belaury Land Revenue Office, Kanchanpur, Bhoj Bahadur Aidi has been arrested.

According to the Area Police Office, Belaury, Aidi was arrested after a local woman accused Aidi of raping her.

Chief of Area Police Office, Belaury, Police Inspector Rana Bahadur Chand said, “We have arrested Aidi for investigation and preliminary investigation into the case is underway.”

Chand said that no complaint has been filed against Aidi yet and added that they have also arrested the woman for the investigation into the case.

Number of people entering KTM Valley increases

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Number of people entering Kathmandu valley after celebrating Bijaya Dashami has increased.

According to traffic police, 70,759 people and 11,421 vehicles entered Kathmandu valley from Wednesday morning to Thursday morning. Similarly, 56,705 people left Kathmandu valley on the same period.

The highest number of people entered Kathmandu Valley via Jagati check point of Bhaktapur district, according to the metropolitan Traffic Police Division.

A total of 38,933 people entered Kathmandu Valley via Jagati, 26,356 from Nagdhunga check point, 1487 from Munkhu and 3,982 from Pharping check point.

Division Chief, Superintendent of Police Bhim Prasad Dhakal said that the number of people returning their workplace after celebrating Dashain.

He said, “Number of passengers entering Kathmandu Valley is high as compared to passengers leaving Kathmandu.”



On the occasion of Bada Dashain Festival, the locals install a wooden swing at Byas Municipality-3 in Tanahu. In Nepali society, it is customary to swing in the Dashain Festival.

(Photo: RSS)

EDITORIAL

Festive Significance

SENIOR cultural expert Satya Mohan Joshi says that life would have been less purposeful and less joyous without culture. Cultural activities keep societies vibrant, polished and civilised. It is the medium to keep individuals connected for common purpose of happiness, joy, wellbeing and fulfillment that form distinct identity, history and way of life. It adds new dimension to human life, with sublime characteristics of spirituality, civilisation and social bonding. Culture has been defined as social behaviour and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities and habits of the individuals in these groups. Our cultural activities shed light on who we are and which historical background we hail from.

Cultural richness has formed a distinct identity of Nepal in the rest of the world, and particularly the cultural superiority of Nepal’s capital city Kathmandu is highly admired. Observation of a western writer made about two centuries ago is that there are more temples in this city than houses and more god images than people. The deep sense of hospitality and politeness of the Nepali people is based on cultural values. Though this country has wide cultural, religious and ethnic diversity within relatively smaller geographical setting, the sense of inter-cultural harmony and tolerance is exemplary in the world. The culture of tolerance and brotherhood is cultivated through the civilised cultural tradition itself. What modern schools have not been able to teach was embodied in people long ago through exemplary cultural practices. These practices guide us through the polished path even today.

Festivals are the integral part of Nepali cultural life, and make our unique identity. In this sense, now is an important time of the year when major festivals are observed with mirth, merriment and family reunion. Great festivals like Dashain, Tihar and Chhath take place during Nepali Sarad Ritu or autumn season now marked by the end of monsoon rains, onset of pleasant moderate weather, excellent natural landscape view and blooming of fragrant flowers. The week-long chariot festival of Indrajaatra in the capital valley heralds the beginning of major festivals to say goodbye to the mud and rains and flying of kites from rooftops and open spaces. Main days of the Dashain festival are now over, though the celebrations will continue till Kojagrat Purnima that falls on October 13. Within a fortnight or so, Dashain is followed by Tihar and Chhath that are celebrated in the hills and the Terai plains.

Nepali festivals are more than the occasion for feasting and merry making. Each festival has its meaning and message derived from myths, beliefs and religious scriptures. The Bijaya Dashami day celebrated during the Dashain marks the victory of truth and divine force over the evil. Tihar, the festival of light, represents the bond of love between brothers and sisters. Light signifies end of ignorance and emergence of knowledge and learning. Chhath is the occasion to offer devotion and respect to Sun god. Balance of natural elements for healthy life and collective wellbeing is known to all and in this sense worshipping the Sun as the incarnation of god is prevalent in many societies around the world. Festivals are binding force that attract people to the ancestral home for the joyous reunion and sharing of deepest feelings between dear and near ones.

Keenly Awaited Visit

Bini Dahal

PRESIDENT of the People’s Republic of China, Xi Jinping, is slated to arrive in Kathmandu on a two-day State visit to Nepal. This visit can be considered a historical one as no Chinese president had ever visited Nepal since 1996 when the then Chinese President Jiang Zemin had come to the country.

It is needless to say that Nepal and China have always shared a cordial and friendly bilateral relationship. And the foundation of this relationship began centuries ago when Lichhavi princess Bhrikuti was married to Tsrong Chong Gombo, the King of Tibet, and also when Arniko utilised his architectural ideas to construct masterpieces around China during the regime of Kublai Khan. The early visits of Chinese monks and scholars such as Monk Fa Xian from Jin Dynasty and Monk Xuan Zang from Tang Dynasty, among others, have also helped in the whole relation-building process.

With China being a major economic power and the most populous nation in the world, Nepal as a neighbour has benefitted immensely from her in the fields trade and economy. The northern neighbor has played an important role in Nepal’s development as it regularly assists developmental projects. The impending high-level visit will not only help give continuity to the Chinese support but also will expand it.

One of the many positive effects of the visit will be noticed during the upcoming Visit Nepal Year 2020 (VNY 2020). Since the Government of Nepal is going to launch the ambitious national tourism campaign in the near future, the relevant agencies have not been able to promote it in a full-fledged manner. However, Xi’s visit to Nepal alone can be instrumental in highlighting our nation as an important tourist destination for potential Chinese tourists. The visit

will surely help highlight Nepal among the Chinese populace.

According to a report published by the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), Nepal received a total of 85,318 Chinese tourists in the first six months this year. The figure is 19.53 per cent rise to the Chinese 71,379 tourists of 2018. Thanks to the excellent road and air connectivity, the already growing Chinese tourist source market will further grow. Because of China’s huge population and fast-growing economy, the number of Chinese outbound tourists has been increasing annually. If the growth trend in the number of Chinese tourist continues, China is expected to emerge as the largest tourist source market for Nepal, even bypassing India, in the days ahead.

In order to help diversify trade around the globe, China has initiated various kinds of ventures. One of them includes Belt Road Imitative (BRI) in which nearly all of the nations from around the world have enlisted themselves as beneficiaries and this list incorporates Nepal as well. Once the BRI gets completed, it could be a good means of achieving economic prosperity by the means of infrastructure and connectivity development. The initiative is expected to promote and incorporate economies, bring markets together and invest in infrastructures, playing an important role in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Xi’s scheduled visit has brought a lot of enthusiasm among the Nepali people as the northern neighbor is not only a powerful nation but it also shares a very strong bond of friendship from centuries. The bond that the two countries share is not just limited to political and diplomatic levels. There are multi-dimensional aspects involved in the bilateral relations. The exchanges of high-level delegations between the two friendly nations help boost these aspects. From the era of Bhrikuti up until today, the two nations have evolved a lot.



Binod P. Bista

THOUGH the formal diplomatic relations between Nepal and China were established in 1955, immediately after Nepal’s removal of Rana oligarchy, people to people relations date back centuries ago. Siddhartha Gautama—the Buddha—provided an opportunity after his attainment of enlightenment during the seventh century itself, to take his message to Nepal’s neighbouring areas and States for emancipation of miseries and sufferings leading to harmony and peace between the peoples as well as nations. During the reign of Amshuverma in Nepal, princess Bhrikuti—the ‘Swet Tara’ as she is fondly called, married Tsrong Chong Gombo, King of Tibet, in the seventh century that also supported spread of Buddhism in Tibet as well.

Together with the development and exchanges of arts and culture between Khasa (Tibet) and Kathmandu (Nepal) in the seventh century, Nepal—especially Kathmandu Valley, became the principal venue for trade between India and Tibet, similar to ‘transit point concept’ of modern Nepali leaders. Although the high passes (24 in number and averaging 17000 ft.) served the purpose, albeit with hardship but Kuti and Kerong—lowest points (at around 6000 ft)—were the preferred points. As per the treaty

signed between Tibet and Nepal in the 17th century, Kathmandu was granted joint authority with Tibet of the border towns (Kuti and Kerong) and it was further agreed that Nepal (Kathmandu) would mint coins for Tibet. Thus, the present day negotiations between Nepal and the People’s Republic of China for direct road and rail access from Kerong (Tibet Autonomous Region) is like reviving the old trade route in a better manner through sophisticated technology that China has acquired in the past few decades.

China’s current President Xi Jinping has risen to a higher stature, both in China and internationally, in a very short span of six years. Xi Jinping thought’, has found a prominent place in China’s constitution, his initiatives—particularly the ‘Belt and Road’ has created ripples all over the world. This initiative has come at a time when the global players, including some European Union (EU) members, as well as Russian Federation were trying to establish a multipolar world through the sheer strength of their combined economies, technological prowess, and will to assume larger responsibility. China, a permanent member of Security Council, has been assuming its international peace and security responsibility with more vigor due to its stupendous rise as the second largest economic power of the world. Further, it has also been involved in checking, where possible, the flash spot of Asia—North Korea; helping the front line states and some others of Africa through investment

in infrastructure and manufacturing to douse local conflicts getting into full scale war.

For most developing countries, China has become a modern messiah through which the people have got easy access to and affordability for basic necessities of daily life—clothing, electronics, machinery and equipment. This situation has not only kept the people relatively satisfied but also helped the governments to focus on social service sector for long term wellbeing of the people. It has helped to contain unemployment leading to local conflicts to some degree.

China’s current President Xi Jinping has risen to a higher stature, both in China and internationally, in a very short span of six years.

Nepal has continuously enjoyed: the warmth of friendship, respect for a sovereign nation, support from a strong brother at all times of need for maintaining Nepal’s independent and sovereign status, and most of all financial support—direct as well as indirect. Even when China had not attained its present economic strength and technological marvel she had been supporting Nepal’s efforts in building infrastructure, establishing manufacturing industries, and creating sports facilities, among others. Nepali people are indebted to the Chinese people for their largesse

and goodwill. It is gratifying to witness that this excellent example of bilateral cooperation remained steadfast despite frequent changes in Nepali politics—system as well as governance, the most significant being the transformation of Nepal from a kingdom to a republic. China’s firm assurance from its successive leaders, directly or through the visiting high level officials as well as its chief envoy to Nepal, that China values Nepal’s independence and sovereignty as the linchpin of its bilateral relations with Nepal and sees that no harm comes to Nepal’s present stature is a testimony of a true and all weather friend.

Although several Nepali leaders and intellectuals are engaged in petty discussions of what the Chinese President might bring with him in terms of projects and programs linked with BRI or outside of it, there may be a need to seriously reorient the priorities based on importance and value of bilateral relations. In this regard, some thoughts may be given to:

- Nepal’s strongest desire to live alongside China as an independent and sovereign nation for which Nepal’s ancestors have spared nothing by way of sacrifices;
- Abiding by the five principles of peaceful cooperation in the conduct of Sino-Nepal relations should follow immediately;
- Nepal is concerned as its neighbors but confident in strengthening its internal safety and security not only for its people but also keeping up with its commitment that no harm

will come to its neighbours from its soil;

- Nepal’s need to establish manufacturing industries for import substitution as well as for generating employment is obvious—China can offer buy back arrangements on certain industry sectors by providing machinery, technology as well as raw materials to Nepal turning Nepal into a processing zone;
- Nepal’s need of infrastructure building is most urgent, be it roadways, railroads, airways, and even river ways. Sensible ways of meeting the financial requirements to achieve this lofty goal, could be another important area;
- It should be kept in mind that not all agenda can be taken up at one go and Nepal should keep its patience while dealing with China.

Most importantly, on the occasion of the State visit of President Xi coming after nearly 23 years by a President of China, all the Nepalis must welcome him with arms fully stretched and bid him farewell after the visit with warm hearts and smiles. The Chinese people are aware of Nepali hospitality and good manners that are ingrained in our character. President Xi Jinping would want nothing more but consolidate the existing relations by the strength of his BRI Initiative—embedded in his thoughts directed at sharing prosperity with neighbors and friends. Nepal is fortunate to have a benevolent neighbour on its side.

(Bista served as an advisor to the Institute of Foreign Affairs-IFA).

The Golden Week Of Dashain Holidays



Kamal Parajuli

DASHAIN, the biggest festival of Nepalis. Though the most sacred day is Bijayadashami, the festival starts from Ghatasthapana nine days prior – the day after new moon. As it is about receiving tika and blessings not only from one’s parents but also from all other senior relatives, the ceremony drags on till full moon. It, thus traces half phase of moon which is normally fifteen days.

A long line of buses with passengers seated on the roof is a fascinating sight during this time, if not safe. The exodus has become an annual phenomenon as it is believed 75 per cent of Kathmandu valley populations are outsiders.

Dashain holidays which once were nine days long have been truncated to five. I agree, Nepal comprises of multitude of ethnic races and not everyone assign the same importance to Dashain. Even the Constitution of Nepal, 2072 BS has acknowledged the diversity and promised to treat everyone equally irrespective of race and religion. Then one might assume the eliminated holidays were assigned to ethnic festivals to level privilege. No, they were not. Festival holidays, instead, were reduced to 15 in 2076 BS from 32 in 2074 BS with ethnic celebrations taking the brunt.

At first glance, 32 holidays for festivals look a tad too much. However, developed

countries practice two-day weekend and that amounts to 104 days off. Besides, there are 10 public ones in the US which adds to 114 holidays. Back here, even if you assume Friday to be half-holiday, weekends stand at 78 days. Add 15 public holidays; you only get 91 days off. But, as record for how much people work is kept in hours and not days, number of days off is moot. In Nepal, it is 10 AM to 5 PM or seven hours on Sunday to Thursday and 10 AM to 3 PM or five hours on Friday. That makes 40-hour week like in any western country. But, it limits public holidays to 10 to match annual hours-worked. This must have played a key role in government slashing holidays. But, in a changing global economic landscape it is overkill.

Kathmandu residents armed with gadgets and access to virtual world rave about beauty of Switzerland but are oblivious of Daman which is just 3 hours drive away.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is cannibalising jobs with repeated tasks or routine procedures. Worryingly, most jobs are like that. Even diagnosis is better performed by AI which can feed symptoms into system and tally it against patient’s and her family’s medical history. Only artistic, creative and sophisticated jobs stand any chance of survival. Well, whether you like it or not, Instagramming is one.

Now coming back to the ramification of clipped Dashain holidays, how many times do temporary residents of Kathmandu get to visit their homes? Roads are patchy and routes treacherous. Even travel to closest districts like Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Dhading and Rasuwa takes four hours at the least. If one has to

walk further – a whole day. Assign a day for the return trip. Long Dashain holidays provided an opportunity for many to meet their ailing parents and reconnect with their roots. But, three days of net holidays has dampened the spirit for many to embark on the journey. When the world is learning to travel we are, instead, stifling it. Besides, shortened holiday is taking off the charm of the festival and smothering native culture and religion. Contrast that with China which has started acknowledging the importance of folk religions.

Being landlocked and mountainous have us living insularly for years. It has constricted our scope and calcified our disposition. This shortcoming can only be redressed with encouraging people to visit new places and face

Kathmandu residents armed with gadgets and access to virtual world rave about beauty of Switzerland but are oblivious of Daman which is just 3 hours drive away. The ignorance has to be exorcised.

One can look to China for inspiration. It just celebrated National Day golden week with holidays running from 1st to 7th of October. Manufacturing plants were shut and schools were closed. In fact, it is third such week this year with two others being lunar New Year and Labour Day. These golden weeks are designed to give fillip to tourism and facilitate long-distance family visits.

Nepal is a motley mix of ethnic races and cultures. However, a nation cannot be just a strip of geography with disparate groups and disgruntled citizens. There has to be some shared values that keep them together. Two things binding Nepal is religion and language. Religion has been ripped apart. Language is being tinkered with. But, holidays, the basic requirement of modern-day economies could be an additional layer of shared delight bringing all Nepal together. Extending Dashain holidays along China’s golden week is the easiest option.

Making Friday a full working day adds 104 annual hours providing leeway to declare few extra holidays. For some the extended holidays would be religious affairs, while for others it would be a time to savour natural beauty of Nepal. Besides, it will also give temporary residents of Kathmandu a chance to visit their homes irrespective of their religions. Cheers, autumn guarantees a fabulous weather. Travel and instagram. Happy Dashain; happy holidays.

(Parajuli works with Himalayan Bank Limited and can be reached at kamal.parajuli@himalayanbank.com)

LETTERS

Opportunity To Strengthen Ties

THIS is in reference to the news report “Preparations To Welcome Chinese President Xi In Full Swing”, which appeared in the online edition of *The Rising Nepal* on October 10.

As per the news, preparations for welcoming Chinese President Xi Jinping have been intensified as the date for his state visit to Nepal has been announced. He is scheduled to visit Nepal from October 12-13.

The authorities concerned have been busy making preparations for the much-hyped visit, which holds a lot of significance for Nepal-China ties. The two sides are scheduled to hold bilateral talks and sign vital agreements during Xi’s visit.

The historic visit would be an important opportunity for the two friendly neighbours to strengthen their bilateral relations. The high-level visit is also instrumental in materialising the deals signed between the two nations earlier. Different parts of the Kathmandu Valley, including Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Tinkune, Baneshwar, Babarmahal, Naxal, Tripureshwar, Bhadrakali, Kesharmahal, Durbar Marg, Sundhara, Nagpokhari, Hattisar,



Kalimati and Solteemod, have been given a facelift in view of the Chinese President’s upcoming visit.

The Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) has accelerated the process of beautifying the city by planting a variety of species of flowers. Thanks to the visit, the entire capital city now seems to be different. However, instead of doing such things in haste, the authorities concerned should have kept the city refurbished for once and all.

Menuka Khatiwada
Koteswor, Kathmandu

50 Years Ago

October 11, 1969
Five Persons Arrested

Bhairawa

Local Administration has arrested Madan Bahadur, Jivan K.C., Amrit Thapa, Arjun Sharma, of Nawal Parasi District and Pashupati Nath Shrestha, teacher of Sopmalai village panchayat school of Rupandehi district under the Security Act, it is learnt, reports RSS.

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TAILPIECE

A foreman had ten very lazy men working for him. One day he decided to trick them into doing some work for a change. "I've got a really easy job today for the laziest one among you," he announced. "Will the laziest man please put his hand up. Nine hands went up. "Why didn't you put your hand up?" he asked the tenth man. "Too much trouble," came the reply.

A drunk guy in Alaska decides to go ice fishing. So he packs up his stuff and goes out onto the ice. He starts sawing a hole in the ice, and a loud booming voice says,

"YOU WILL FIND NO FISH UNDER THAT ICE." The drunk looks up, ignores it, and continues on.

The voice repeats, "YOU WILL FIND NO FISH

The drunk looks up and says, "Is this God trying to warn me?"

The voice says "NO, I'M THE MANAGER OF THIS ICE RINK."



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks during talks with journalists in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday.
(Photo: AP)

WORLD

Three scientists share chemistry Nobel Prize

Xinhua
Stockholmes, Oct. 10

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded to three scientists, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced.

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino "for the development of lithium-ion batteries."

According to a press release, Whittingham worked on developing methods that could lead to fossil fuel-free energy technologies.

"The foundation of the lithium-ion battery was laid during the oil crisis in the 1970s... He started to research superconductors and discovered an extremely energy-rich material, which he used to create an innovative cathode in a lithium battery," said the press release.

About Goodenough, the press release said "after a systematic search, in 1980 he demonstrated that cobalt oxide with intercalated lithium ions can produce as much as four volts. This was an important breakthrough and would lead to much more powerful batteries."

With Goodenough's cathode as a basis, Akira Yoshino created the first commercially viable lithium-ion battery in 1985, according to the release.

"Rather than using reactive lithium in the anode, he used petroleum coke, a carbon material that, like the cathode's cobalt oxide, can intercalate lithium ions," said the release.

"The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2019 rewards the development of the lithium-ion battery. This lightweight, rechargeable and powerful battery is now used in everything from mobile phones to laptops and electric vehicles. It can also store significant amounts of energy from solar and wind power, making possible

a fossil fuel-free society," concluded the press release.

Goodenough, born 1922 in Jena, Germany, holds currently Virginia H. Cockrell Chair in Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, USA.

M. Stanley Whittingham, born 1941 in the UK, is Distinguished Professor at Binghamton University, the State University of New York, USA.

Akira Yoshino, born 1948 in Suita, Japan, is professor at Meijo University.

Akira Yoshino sounded very delighted in the telephone interview during the press conference. He said that "curiosity" was the major driving force for his researches. He also said that climate change was a "very serious issue now," and that lithium-ion batteries can be of great help to this problem.

The prize amount is 9 million Swedish krona (about 1 million U.S. dollars) and will be shared equally among the Laureates.



Photo released by Turkish Defense Ministry shows Turkish army launches a military operation into northern Syria on the Turkey-Syria border.
(Photo: Xinhua)

Indonesia’s minister wounded in stabbing

AP
Jakarta, Oct. 10

A knife-wielding man who may have been influenced by a radical Islamic group wounded Indonesia’s security minister, a local police chief and another person in a western province on Thursday, police said.

National police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said security minister Wiranto was stabbed in the abdomen in the attack in Banten province, where authorities say Muslim militants have a presence.

Wiranto, 72, who uses one name, was airlifted to the capital, Jakarta, where he was in stable condition, officials said. Videos showed him being carried on

a stretcher, the left side of his abdomen covered with bandages and an oxygen mask strapped to his face.

Wiranto, who was armed forces chief in the late 1990s, had just stepped out of his car and was being welcomed by the police chief in Pandeglang town when the attacker dashed toward them, wounding both along with a third man. Bodyguards wrestled the attacker to the ground and tied his hands behind his back while others helped Wiranto, who stumbled to the ground.

President Joko Widodo, who appointed Wiranto to the top security post in 2016, visited him at an army hospital in central Jakarta.

US polls show divide over impeachment

AP
Washington, Oct. 10

Americans are following impeachment proceedings closely and are slightly more likely to approve than disapprove of the inquiry itself. But the public is more closely split over whether President Donald Trump should be removed from office.

Several polls published since House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the start of an impeachment inquiry on Sept. 24 show a shift in views from earlier this year as the House of Representatives investigates whether Trump violated his oath of office in asking the government of Ukraine to investigate a political opponent.

Turkey starts military operation against Kurdish forces

Xinhua
Turkey, Oct. 10

Turkey officially started its long-threatened military campaign to eliminate Kurdish forces in northern Syria, targeting several areas and causing a big wave of displacement amid Syrian government's condemnation.

The Syrian national TV said the Turkish attack targeted positions of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Ras al-Ayn, al-Darbasiyah, and al-Malikiyah as well as the city of Qamishli in the Haskaah province in northeastern Syria and the areas of Ayn Issa and Tal Abyad in the countryside of Raqqa in northern Syria.

The Turkish campaign started by shelling the positions of the SDF in Ras al-Ayn area and later expanded to areas in Raqqa.

The state TV said the Turkish side is heavily shelling the SDF sites amid a large wave of civilians' displacement.

The TV said the Turkish shelling is "random" and is destroying the infrastructure in Ras al-Ayn.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said that the SDF got informed about the Turkish airstrikes and evacuated several positions ahead of the strikes.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday declared the beginning of the military operation in northern Syria against the Kurdish forces that Ankara deems as terrorists and separatists.

Turkey launched the operation with the help of the Turkey-backed rebels in northern Syria, which have recently joined force under the umbrella

of the so-called "Syrian National Army."

Erdogan recently said that Ankara was ready to launch military operations against the People's Protection Unit (YPG) and its allies of the SDF in the east of the Euphrates in northern Syria "at any moment."

Turkey sees the YPG and the SDF as separatists and terrorists, citing their links with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States, and the European Union.

Turkish officials have recently divulged its intention to unleash an assault against the Kurdish forces in northern Syria in order to impose a safe zone near its southern border and resettle millions of Syrian refugees.

The U.S., which is backing the SDF, has withdrawn troops from the region where Turkey was planning to

target, which was seen as an abandoning to the Kurdish forces, which have been Washington allies in the fight against the Islamic State (IS) in northern and eastern Syria.

Ahead of the Turkish campaign, reports were saying that the Kurdish forces should embark on a dialogue with Damascus, and not to bet on Washington's support, in order to allow the return of the government institutions to Kurdish-held areas and thus stripping Turkey of the pretext of launching the assault.

As Turkey started the attack, the Kurdish Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, known as Rojava, said in a statement Wednesday that it welcomes dialogue with the Syrian government to defuse the tension in the northern region under Russia's mediation.



Jeremy Borovitz, right, gestures as he stays in front of a synagogue in Halle, Germany, Thursday.
(Photo: AP)

Merkel joins solidarity vigil

AFP
Berlin, Oct. 10

Chancellor Angela Merkel joined people gathered at Berlin's main synagogue late Wednesday for a silent vigil, showing solidarity with the victims of a deadly gun attack in Halle and saying "no to antisemitism".

Offering words of encouragement for New Synagogue rabbi Gesa Ederberg on a Yom Kippur holiday tainted by violence, Merkel said: "Unfortunately, on your holy day today, we've witnessed something horrible. Two people have been killed, and there has been an attack on Jews in Germany."

"My aim, and that of all politicians, is to do everything to ensure you can live safely. And this day shows that it hasn't been enough, that we have to do more," she added.

Two people were shot dead, and two others injured, in the German city of Halle earlier

Wednesday in an anti-Semitic attack as Jews marked the holy day of Yom Kippur.

Rabbi Ederberg said she had received many messages from people who were "afraid".

"Many people told me they weren't coming because they were scared. That has to change," she added.

The rabbi blasted a "resurgence of anti-Semitism in Germany," urging "civil society to oppose anyone who would use the term 'Jew' as an insult and to battle "all brown (fascistic) forces".

Maintaining a ceremonial silence under the light rain, those present placed candles in front of the synagogue. Several people were carrying Israeli flags on their shoulders. Others unrolled a banner reading "against all anti-Semitism".

"It was important to be here to show our solidarity with the Jewish community. An attack on Jews in Germany is an attack on all of us," said event organiser Sawwan Chebli, a Berlin city representative of Palestinian origin.

‘No blackmail’ in conversation with Trump

AP
Kyiv, Ukraine, Oct. 10

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday there was "no blackmail" in the phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump that helped spark an impeachment inquiry.

Zelenskyy is trying to save his reputation and distance himself from the U.S. political drama. In an all-day "media marathon" held in a food court, he played down suggestions that Trump pressured him to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden in exchange for military aid to help Ukraine battle Russian-backed separatists.

Responding to questions from The Associated Press, Zelenskyy said he only learned after their July 25 phone call that the U.S. had blocked hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine.

"We didn't speak about this" during the July call, Zelenskyy said.

"There was no blackmail."

Trump asked Zelenskyy during the call to "look into" Biden and his son, according to a rough White House transcript. Congressional Democrats believe Trump was holding up the military aid to use as leverage to pressure Ukraine and advance his domestic political interests before next year's U.S. presidential election.

The July call is central to the impeachment inquiry, and embarrassed Zelenskyy because it showed him as eager to please Trump and critical of European partners whose support he needs to strengthen Ukraine's economy and to end the conflict with Russia.

He said he "didn't even check" whether the Ukrainian transcript of the July call is the same as that of the White House, but says "I think they match."

Trump later said the military aid was frozen because of concerns about corruption in Ukraine, but the move prompted congressional

outray and the money was released in September.

But Zelenskyy said the call "wasn't linked to weapons or the story with (Ukrainian gas company) Burisma," where Biden's son Hunter served on the board.

Asked what Ukraine did to persuade the U.S. to release the aid, Zelenskyy said: "We have many diplomatic contacts. And in case we need to find a solution to questions of this level, questions about our country's security, we use all our powerful possibilities." He didn't elaborate.

"I don't want to interfere in any way in the elections" in the U.S., he said. Zelenskyy appears to be playing to both U.S. political camps to ensure Ukraine has continued support no matter who wins the presidential election next year.

Zelenskyy said he thought the call would lead to an in-person meeting with Trump, and wanted the American leader to come to Ukraine. Zelenskyy said the "key question"

for him was to try to persuade the White House to "change its rhetoric" about Ukraine as a corrupt and untrustworthy country.

He said he wanted to meet with Trump in person but that there were "no conditions" set for such a meeting.

He said he had "several calls" with Trump, but bristled at repeated questions about their relationship. "We are an independent country, we have relations with many countries," not just the U.S., he said.

A TV and film comedian, Zelenskyy overwhelmingly won the presidency in April on promises to fight corruption and end the five-year conflict with Moscow-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. He's treading carefully to ensure continued support from the U.S. while trying to make peace with powerful neighbor Russia.

Most of the questions at Thursday's unusual media event related to the Russia conflict or Ukraine's economic troubles.

Congo measles outbreak kills over 4,000

AP
Dakar, Senegal, Oct. 10

More than 4,000 people have died in Congo this year in the world's largest measles outbreak, the United Nations children's agency said Wednesday. The Central African nation is also battling an Ebola outbreak that has killed about half that number since August 2018.

Since January, more than 200,000 cases of measles have been reported across Congo, UNICEF said. More than 140,000 involve children under 5, who also make up nearly 90 percent of deaths.

"We're facing this alarming situation because millions of Congolese children miss out on routine immunization and lack access to health care when they fall sick," said the UNICEF country representative, Edouard Beigbeder.

PRISM

'One small nibble for man': 3D printer makes meat in space

Moscow: The prospect of astronauts tucking into a roast dinner has grown slightly closer after a successful experiment used a 3D printer to create meat on the International Space Station.

The bioprinter produced beef, rabbit and fish tissue using magnetic fields in microgravity, a Russian medical technology company involved in the experiment said.

The experiment -- an international collaboration involving US, Russian and Israeli companies -- was carried out in September by cosmonaut Oleg Skripochka in the station's Russian segment using a 3D printer developed in Moscow.

The creators say it is the first to create a small amount of artificial meat in conditions of weightlessness.

Goat rams thru sliding glass door, naps inside bathroom

Cleveland: An Ohio homeowner never envisioned becoming semi-famous because of a goat butting its way into her home and taking a nap in her bathroom.

"This is the most random story in the world," Jennifer Keathley said Tuesday, breaking out into laughter.

The break-in happened Friday when an escaped male goat from a farm several miles (kilometers) away repeatedly butted against a sliding glass door, breaking into the Keathley family home in Ashland County's Sullivan Township.

Keathley's 18-year-old son, Logan, discovered the billy goat in the bathroom when he returned home Friday afternoon from school to find the family's agitated German Shepherd in the driveway, broken glass on the back porch and the house reeking.

Some of the break-in was recorded on the Keathley's home surveillance camera.

(AFP/AP)

Today in History

1138 – A massive earthquake strikes Aleppo; it is one of the most destructive earthquakes ever.

1852 – The University of Sydney, Australia's oldest university, is inaugurated in Sydney.

1986 – Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Iceland to continue discussions about scaling back IRBM arsenals in Europe.

1987 – Start of Operation Pawan by Indian forces in Sri Lanka. Thousands of civilians, insurgents, soldiers die.

2018 – Soyuz MS-10, launching an intended crew for the ISS, suffers an in-flight abort. The crew lands safely.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

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General public receiving tika from President Bidya Devi Bhandari on the occasion of Bada Dashain tika at Shital Niwas on Tuesday.

(Photo: Bikas Dware/TRN)

Macky Sall and Munib Younan to get Sunhak Peace Prize

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

The President of Senegal, Macky Sall, 59 and Munib.A.Younan, 70, former President of the Lutheran World Federation, have been selected as the 2020 Sunhak Peace Prize Laureates.

The Sunhak Peace Prize Committee has selected Macky Sall and Munib.A.Younan, for the 2020 Sunhak Peace Prize Laureates for their contribution in bringing about world unity.

In addition, Special Founder's award will be given to Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. These awards were announced last week by the Committee in a ceremony held Nagoya, Japan.

Moon was selected in recognition of his devotion in leading the UN toward a sustainable world in the face of unprecedented global challenges and crises, such as the global economic crisis, climate change, terrorism and refugee issues,

during his term.

President Macky Sall is being recognized for leading an economic revival through transparent policy in his country.

Bishop Munib A. Younan, a Palestinian refugee, is being recognized for his dedication to bring harmony among Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Middle East region for over 40 years since his appointment as a Lutheran pastor in 1976, and for his leading role in seeking a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Sunhak Peace Prize discovers and awards biennially individuals and organizations that have contributed to peace and welfare of future generations. The prize of one million US dollars is the largest single award in the world.

The winner of the Founders' Award will receive 500,000 US dollars. The award ceremony will be held at KINTEX in Seoul, South Korea, on February 5, 2020.

Govt agrees to receive World Bank grant

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

The government of Nepal has decided to accept the grant amounting to over Rs 2.71 billion to be provided by the World Bank for effective implementation of the School Sector Development Programme (2016-2023).

Minister for Communications and Information Technology Gokul Prasad Baskota made public the decisions at Singha Durbar today made by the meeting of the Council of Ministers convened on October 4.

The SSDP came into effect since more than two years ago. The World Bank believes that the grant would help improve the quality, equitable access and efficiency of basic and secondary education for over 7 million students and 180,000 teachers and facilitators in over 30,000 community schools and centers in Nepal annually.

Minister Baskota, who is also the Spokesperson of the government, shared that the meeting had decided to approve vacancies for 60 gazetted posts for seven different projects under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation for this current fiscal year.

Furthermore, it was shared that Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supplies Ramchandra Dhakal would be entrusted with the responsibility of Executive Director at the Special Financial Authority until the candidate for the same was appointed.

Polythene bags banned in Janakpur

By Our Correspondent
Janakpurdham, Oct. 10

The Janakpur Sub-Metropolitan City has banned the use of polythene bags in Janakpur, with a vision of making the city clean and pollution free.

The city office has recently initiated the plastic-bags free campaign in the city.

As a part of the cleanliness campaign, the city office has distributed eco-friendly bags to public and also replaced polythene bags from the shops of the major market areas.

A team led by the mayor of Janakpur, Lal Kishore Shah, has replaced plastic bags with the eco-friendly bags from the major market areas, including, Ramjanaki temple, Rajdevi temple, Janakchowk, Ramchowk and Janakichowk among others.

Mayor Shah said with the major festivals like Dashain, Tihar and Chhath round the bend, festive shoppers throng the major market centers across the city to purchase stuffs for the festival and haphazard use of plastic bags occurred at this time.

So the city office has

stepped up efforts to replace plastic bags with eco-friendly bags, he added.

The ban on plastic bags will not become effective if the public do not cooperate with the city office. People should give up their habit of carrying plastic bags, only then the campaign will become effective, he added.

He asked people to avoid the use of polythene bags and help the city office to control pollution.

Chief District Officer of Dhanusa, Pradeep Raj Kandel, social workers Baidhya Nath Shah and civil society have also

expressed their solidarity with the campaign.

Ram Ashish Yadav, member of State Assembly of State 2, said the campaign was effective to keep the city clean and plastic-free.

The collaborative effort of all, government bodies, civil society, non-government bodies, shopkeepers and local people, was a must to make the campaign successful, he added.

He added that public awareness should be raised about the environmental cost of the plastic bags.

NC to train local representatives

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Nepali Congress is scheduled to hold training for local body representatives elected from the party.

Party's Central Policy, Research and Training Academy secretary Mukti Acharya in his statement issued on Thursday said the training was to be held on October 18-19 in Bhaktapur.

The training is a part of the Academy's calendar to train party leaders and cadres.

The statement read that Rural Municipalities chair, vice-chair and District Coordinate Committee chief and deputy chief and NC Rural Municipalities unit chairs were invited as participants of the training.

In the training trainers would talk about current political change and constitution's fundamental elements, rights and duty of municipality, relation and joint right of Rural Municipality, State and Federal government and planning and budget formulation.

Coordination between local level representatives and local party unit working committee, foundation building for next elections, problems faced by local representatives, introduction to NC's statute, political and economic policy and failures of the federal government are other topics for training.

The party has formed the Assistance Committee for the training under the leadership of Indrawati Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchok chair and National Federation of Rural Municipalities general secretary Bamsal Tamang.

UK, Irish leaders to meet as Brexit deal hopes wane

AP
London, Oct. 10

The leaders of Britain and Ireland were meeting Thursday in an attempt to find common ground for an elusive Brexit deal, with just three weeks until the U.K. is set to leave the European Union.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar were scheduled to hold a private lunch meeting in northwest England. Britain is due to leave the 28-nation bloc on Oct. 31, and attempts to find a deal have foundered over plans for the border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland.

The currently all-but-invisible

border underpins both the regional economy and Northern Ireland's peace process.

Under a U.K. proposal, there would have to be customs checks on some goods, though not on the border itself. The EU says any customs checks are unacceptable.

In recent days, Britain and the EU have traded bad-tempered barbs about who is responsible for the deadlock in talks. After Johnson's Downing Street office claimed EU intransigence had made it "essentially impossible" for the U.K. to leave with a deal, European Commission President Donald Tusk warned against playing a "stupid blame game."

Varadkar and other EU leaders say Johnson, who took office in

July, has repudiated the withdrawal agreement made with the bloc by his predecessor, Theresa May. That deal was rejected three times by Britain's Parliament, largely because of lawmakers' opposition to provisions to ensure an open Irish border.

Johnson insists the U.K. will leave the U.K. on Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal.

However, many members of Britain's Parliament are determined to prevent a no-deal Brexit, which economists say would plunge the U.K. economy into recession. Last month, they passed a law requiring the government to ask the EU for a delay if no divorce deal has been agreed by Oct. 19 — the day after a key summit of EU leaders in Brussels.

Romanian gov't loses no-confidence vote

Xinhua
Bucharest, Oct. 10

Romania's Social Democratic government collapsed on Thursday, losing a no-confidence vote initiated by the main opposition National Liberal Party and supported by almost all the other parties in parliament.

The motion of no confidence garnered 238 votes in favor, five more than the required minimum of 233, or 50 percent plus one in the 465-seat bicameral parliament.

Thus the cabinet led by Social Democrat leader Viorica Dancila became the fourth government to fall in Romania in the last 30 years.

This was the third censure motion that the outgoing prime minister has encountered since taking office at the end of January, 2018. Dancila's cabinet has failed to survive the crisis after her cabinet was abandoned by its coalition partner in late August and lost the overall majority in parliament.

President Klaus Iohannis will now consult the parliamentary parties and designate a new candidate for the seat of prime minister. Within 10 days, the nominee will then have to present a new team and a programme for parliament approval.

Notice

There is no Friday Supplement today due to Dashain holidays. It will be regular from next week.

- Editor

Olga Tokarczuk, Peter Handke win Nobel literature prizes

AP
Stockholm, Oct. 10

Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk and Austrian author Peter Handke — two writers whose works are deeply intertwined in Europe's religious, ethnic and social fault lines — won the 2018 and 2019 Nobel Prizes for literature on Thursday.

The rare double announcement came after no literature prize was awarded last year due to sex-abuse allegations that tarnished the Swedish Academy, which awards the literature prize.

Yet if prize organizers hoped to get through this year's awards without controversy, they will likely be disappointed.

The Swedish Academy called Handke "one of the most influential writers in Europe" after World War II and praised his work for exploring "the periphery and the specificity of human experience" with linguistic ingenuity.

But the 76-year-old author has long faced criticism for his vigorous defense of the Serbs during the 1990s wars that devastated the Balkans as Yugoslavia disintegrated. He spoke at the 2006 funeral of former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, who at the time was facing war crimes charges, calling him "a rather tragic man."

Handke — who once called for the Nobel Prize to be abolished — said he was "astonished" to receive the award.

"I never thought they would choose me," Handke told reporters outside his home near Paris.

"It was very courageous by the Swedish academy, this kind of decision," he added. "These are good people."

If Handke's victory caused uncomfortable ripples, the choice of Tokarczuk was welcomed by liberal-minded authors and readers in her native

Poland and beyond.

The 57-year-old novelist is one of Poland's best-known authors, known for her humanist themes and playful, subversive streak. The academy said she was chosen for works that explore the "crossing of boundaries as a form of life."

Beginning with his first novel, "The Hornets," in 1966, Handke made his name with works that combine introspection and a provocative streak. One early play was called "Offending the Audience" and featured actors insulting theatergoers. He has written screenplays, several of them for German director Wim Wenders, who also filmed Handke's 1970 novel "The Goalie's Anxiety at the Penalty Kick."

He was praised by the Swedish Academy for writing powerfully about catastrophe, notably in "A Sorrow Beyond Dreams," his 1972 autobiographical novel about his mother's suicide.

But his staunch support of the Serbs during the 1990s Balkans wars has set him at odds with many other Western intellectuals.

In a 1996 essay, "Justice for Serbia," Handke accused Western news media of depicting Serbs as aggressors in the wars that led to the breakup of Yugoslavia. He denied that genocide was committed when Bosnian Serb troops massacred some 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys in the enclave of Srebrenica in 1995, and was an opponent of NATO's airstrikes against Serbia for that country's violent crackdown in Kosovo in the late 1990s. In an interview with Serbia's state TV earlier this year Handke said those behind the bombing "don't belong to Europe and the planet Earth."

Handke's views led novelist Salman Rushdie in 1999 to call him a contender for "International Moron of the Year." Rushdie's publicist at Penguin Random House said Thursday that Rushdie stood by what he wrote in 1999.

US to hand over to Iraq IS members evacuated from Syria

AP
Baghdad, Oct. 10

The U.S. will hand over to Iraqi authorities nearly 50 Islamic State members who were transferred from Syria in recent days, two Iraqi intelligence officials said Thursday.

The officials said the IS members were expected to be handed over by Friday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

The move comes after Turkey began a military offensive into northern Syria against U.S.-backed Kurdish-led fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces who are holding more than 10,000 IS members. Those include some 2,000 foreigners, including about 800 Europeans.

President Donald Trump said Wednesday that some of the "most dangerous" IS members had been moved, but he provided no details.

U.S. officials said Wednesday that two British militants believed to be part of an IS group that beheaded hostages and was known as "The Beatles" have been moved out of a detention center in Syria and are in American custody.

There are concerns that with the assault unfolding in northeastern Syria, the Kurdish-led forces in charge of guarding the detainees won't be able to secure them or would divert forces to fend off against advancing Turkish forces.

Initially, Trump said before the assault began that Turkey

would be responsible for all IS fighters in the area. It was not clear how that would be implemented.

The two men, El Shafee Elsheikh and Alexandra Amon Kotey, along with other British jihadists, allegedly made up the IS cell nicknamed "The Beatles" by surviving captives because of their English accents.

In 2014 and 2015, the militants held more than 20 Western hostages in Syria and tortured many of them. The group beheaded seven American, British and Japanese journalists and aid workers and a group of Syrian soldiers, boasting of the butchery in videos released to the world.

Among the journalists they killed was American James Foley, who was first, followed by fellow Americans Steven Sotloff and Peter Kassig, British aid workers David Haines and Alan Henning and Japanese journalists Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto. The beheadings, often carried out on camera, horrified the world soon after IS took over much of Iraq and Syria in 2014.

The two British men were captured in January last year in eastern Syria by the Kurdish forces amid the collapse of IS. Their detention set off a debate in the U.S. and Europe over how to prosecute their citizens who joined IS.

IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a so-called caliphate in 2014 in large parts of Syria and Iraq that the extremists controlled. IS was defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in March the SDF captured the last sliver of land that was held by IS.

Two persons died and two others were injured in a road mishap at Bisanpur chowk of Khadka municipality-8 of Saptari district today.

The deceased have been identified as Arbinda Chaudhary, 27, of Surunga municipality-1 of Saptari and Anabarul Ansari, 28, of Khadka municipality-6, said Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tilak Bharati. The accident took place when a motorcycle (Ba 68 Pa 6887) heading towards west from east and another motorcycle (Ja 6 Pa 5853) coming from opposite direction collided with each other.

Chaudhary and Ansari died while undergoing treatment at Rau Memorial Hospital, Lahan.

Similarly, injured Debanand Chaudhary, 18, of Surunga municipality-1 and Mohammad Kisudhin, 40, of Kadka municipality-6 have been sent at Biratnagar-based Golden Hospital for treatment, according to the District Police Office, Saptari. The Area Police Office, Kalyanpur, has impounded both motorcycles.

Yemen to become world's poorest country if war continues: UN

AFP
Dubai, Oct. 10

War-ravaged Yemen is on course to become the world's poorest country if the conflict persists, the United Nations said in a report.

"If fighting continues through 2022, Yemen will rank the poorest country in the world, with 79 percent of the population living under the poverty line and 65 percent classified as extremely poor," according to the United Nations Development Programme report, published Wednesday.

Because of the war, poverty in Yemen has jumped from 47 percent of the population in 2014 to a projected 75 percent by the end of 2019.

DETOUR

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Photo Feature

Kathmandu ready to welcome Chinese President

Preparations for the state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping are taking place in full swing. Major roads and junctions of Kathmandu, capital of the country, are being filled with welcome gates, big pictures of Chinese and Nepali Presidents and beautiful images depicting Sagarmatha (Mt Everest), historic monuments and culture associated with the two nations. The heart of the city is getting a facelift with roads being blacktopped, national flags of both country displayed and the surroundings kept neat and clean. A green island has been put up at Tinkune that may catch the attention of the visiting guest on his way to the hotel where he will spend a night. Some snapshots of the cityscape taken by our photographers - Sekhar Chaulagain, Kabita Thapa and Bikash Dware:



SPORTS

Former Chelsea and Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech on Wednesday said he was swapping football for ice hockey after signing to play for a British league team as a goaltender. The 37-year-old Czech, who retired from playing in the summer, said he was reigniting his passion for a sport he first played as a youngster by penning a deal with the Guildford Phoenix. **AFP**



Australia thrash Nepal 5-0

By Anjan Khadka
Canberra, Oct. 10

The powerhouse of Asian football Australia humiliated low ranked visitor Nepal 5-0 at FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 at GIO Stadium, Canberra, Australia on Thursday.

Jamie Maclaren completed a hat-trick and Harry Souttar netted two goals for English Perimer League (EPL) and Europe football experienced Australian team. After suffering defeat Nepal national team head coach Jhon Kalin said the first 25 minutes were bad. "We could not play well in the first 25 minutes but we improved in our performance in the second half."

"This is tough and quality team and they continuously put pressure on us in the first half and we played pretty well in the second half. It is a good experience for Nepal."

"Nepali people coming to support in Canberra were fantastic as their cheering up helped Nepali players to perform well in the second half," coach Kalin added.

Australian Coach Graham Arnold said they wanted to register huge victory in our home match. "Our boys played very well as our planning and we put pressure on visitor from the starting to end of the match. My boys played very well in the first half and our performance was down due to key players changes in the second half. Nepal worked very hard during the match."

Host Australia dominated the match as Maclaren opened the account for Australia in the 6th minutes.

Maclaren scored in a clear-ball Nepali goalie Kiran Chemjong in a powerful free kick off Craig Goodwin.

He doubled the score in the 19th



Australia's Jamie Maclaren celebrates one of his three goals against Nepal at GIO Stadium in Canberra. (Photo:Getty Images)

minutes through heading goal assist by Rhyan Bert Grant.

International debutant Harry Souttar made scoreline 3-0 in the 24th minutes through header in the flank cross off Craig Goodwin.

Harry made score line 4-0 for home team after lack of coordination between defenders Anant Tamang, Dinesh Rajbanshi and goalie Kiran Chemjong.

Maclaren completed his individual hat-trick to seal the match 5-0 for home team. Unmarked Maclaren scored from inside the box to take full advantage of poor defensive of Nepal. He scored in a brilliant assist by his team mate Jakson Irvine from the edge of box.

According to Australian Football Federation A total 18,563 football fans arrived at GIO Stadium, Canberra. Out of 18,563 around 10,000 Nepali fans

were present in the arena from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and others places of Australia.

Nepal kicked off their Qualifiers with 7-0 defeat against Kuwait and made a heroic come back on its second registering 2-0 victory over Chinese.

Nepal football team had travelled around 10,000 KM from Kathmandu with a aim of good performance. Nepal football team arrive Sydney in 3rd of October. They conducted six days long training camp to accommodate with Australian weather.

Nepal entered a field without their first choice striker Bimal Gharti Magar and defender Bikram Lama.

Australia registered a 3-0 comfortable victory over Kuwait in their first match of the qualifiers.

Nepal will next meet Jordan in their last way match on 15th of October.

Nepal suffer 6-wicket loss to Oman

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Nepal ended their Oman Pentangular T20 International Series with six wicket loss against host Oman at AI Amerat on Thursday.

After invited to bat first, Nepal collapsed in 11 overs with just 64 runs in the scoreboard. Oman, in reply, successfully chased the 65-run victory target losing four wickets in 11.5 overs.

Suraj Kumar hammered not out 30-ball 42 to help Oman ease to victory. Khawal Ali (9), Aamir Kaleem (8), Naseem Khushi (1) and Sandeep Goud (3 not out) were the other contributors for Oman.

Earlier, Nepal lost their opener Ishan Pandey (2) in the first over and captain Paras Khadka (4-ball 5) in the third over to make a poor start.

Karan KC took two wickets while Sandeep Lamichhane and Sompal Kami claimed one wicket apiece for Nepal.

Aarif Sheikh and Dipendra Singh Airee socred a double figure for Nepal. Aarif smashed one six and two fours to score 13-ball 20 before being out in the sixth over. Airee smashed 6-ball 11 with two boundaries.



Binod Bhandari (4), Sandeep Jora (0), Sompal Kami (8), Karan KC (8) and Abinash Bohara (2) returned to pavilion with cheap score.

Aamir Kaleem picked five wickets while Bilal Khan took two wickets for Oman. Mohammad Nadeem and Khawar Ali also dismissed one batsman each for home team.

This is the Nepal's lowest total so far scored in the shortest format. Earlier, Nepal had been packed up for 69 against Netherlands and Hong Kong in 2015 and 2014 respectively.

In the other matches of the Pentangular Series, Nepal lost to Ireland and defeated Netherlands and Hong Kong.

Invincible Oman topped the table with eight points while Ireland remained at the second position with six points from three win and one loss. Nepal trailed at the third position with four points. The Netherlands collected two points and Hong Kong ended without any win in the series.

Weather

Friday

Sunrise at 6:02
Sunset at 5:40



Forecast for Nepal (Friday)

Partly to generally cloudy in the eastern region and partly cloudy in the central and western hilly regions and mainly fair in the rest of the country. Isolated brief rain is possible at one or two places of the hilly regions.

Thursday's Weather Record

Stations	Max. temp. (C)	Min. temp. (C)	Rain (mm)
Dipayal	32.5	19.6	0.0
Dadeldhura	22.4	12.1	0.0
Dhangadi	32.6	21.5	4.6
Birendranagar	30.3	18.3	0.0
Nepalgunj	33.4	22.0	0.0
Jumla	23.3	9.7	0.0
Dang	30.2	18.6	0.0
Pokhara	28.6	19.1	11.7
Bhairahawa	32.4	22.5	0.0
Simara	32.5	22.0	0.0
Kathmandu	27.2	15.0	0.0
Okhaldhunga	22.7	14.0	0.0
Taplejung	22.5	15.0	1.0
Dhankuta	26.6	16.9	0.0
Biratnagar	33.4	22.8	0.0
Jomsom	22.0	7.0	0.0*
Dharan	31.3	22.7	0.0*
Lumle	22.0	13.4	0.0*
Jankapur	32.8	23.2	0.0*
Jiri	22.8	10.1	0.0*

Expected Temp.: 26 - 28 °C
Rain Probability: ... %

NEPAL RASTRA BANK

FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

EXCHANGE RATES

October 11, 2019

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
Indian Rupee	100	Rs. 160.00	Rs. 160.15

Open Market Exchange Rates

For the purpose of Nepal Rastra Bank

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
U.S. Dollar	1	Rs. 113.42	Rs. 114.02
Euro	1	Rs. 125.12	Rs. 125.78
Pound Sterling	1	Rs. 139.03	Rs. 139.77
Swiss Franc	1	Rs. 114.25	Rs. 114.85
Australian Dollar	1	Rs. 76.72	Rs. 77.13
Canadian Dollar	1	Rs. 85.19	Rs. 85.65
Singapore Dollar	1	Rs. 82.37	Rs. 82.81
Japanese Yen	10	Rs. 10.56	Rs. 10.62
Chinese Yuan	1	Rs. 15.92	Rs. 16.01
Saudi Arab Riyal	1	Rs. 30.24	Rs. 30.40
Qatari Riyal	1	Rs. 31.15	Rs. 31.32
Thai Bhat	1	Rs. 3.73	Rs. 3.75
United Arab Imerat Theram		Rs. 30.88	Rs. 31.04
Malaysian Ringit	1	Rs. 27.08	Rs. 27.22
South Korean Won	100	Rs. 9.51	Rs. 9.56
Swedish Kronar	1	Rs. 11.53	Rs. 11.60
Danish Kronar	1	Rs. 16.75	Rs. 16.84
Hong Kong Dollar	1	Rs. 14.46	Rs. 14.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	1	Rs. 373.09	Rs. 375.07
Bahrain Dinar	1	Rs. 300.85	Rs. 302.44

Note: Under the present system the open market exchange rates quoted by different banks may differ.

Sri Lanka whitewash Pakistan

AFP
Lahore, Oct. 10

Inexperienced Sri Lanka completed a 3-0 clean-sweep in their Twenty20 series with world number one Pakistan on Wednesday with a 13-run victory in Lahore.

Chasing a modest 148-run target, Pakistan were on course for victory with Haris Sohail's 50-ball 52 with four boundaries and a six but leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga turned the tables with 3-21 to restrict the hosts to 134-6 in 20 overs. Hasaranga had Sohail stumped in the 16th over and then dismissed Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed (16-ball 17) in the 18th to give Sri Lanka victory on a match day designated as Pink Day for breast cancer awareness.

"It's really a good victory," said Sri Lankan skipper Dasun Shanaka. "All the players were bonded, that was the key to our success. "There are no extraordinary players here -- they're all talented, but the unit was the secret. If we play smart cricket, there's always a possibility to win."

Agarwal hits ton as India dominate South Africa

AFP
Pune, Oct. 10

Mayank Agarwal hit his second century in successive matches on the opening day of the second Test against South Africa Thursday and said his side should aim for a 500-run first innings.

The opener, who made a double century in India's opening Test win, scored 108 after the hosts elected to bat.

India were 273-3 when bad light forced an early end to play, with skipper Virat Kohli unbeaten on 63 and vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane on 18.

Kohli and Rahane put on 75 runs for the fourth wicket to thwart South Africa's determined bowlers who kept them under pressure as the gloom crept in. Agarwal, 28, said he was thrilled with his performance.

"The team is in a good position, winning the toss, batting first and with one batsman short, it's a good thing to make runs... 450-500 would be nice," Agarwal said. "Try and get big runs in the first innings... (that) could help us in case we don't want



to bat again. It could really put pressure on the South Africans."

Kohli, leading the Test side for the 50th time, reached his half-century with a boundary off fast bowler Vernon Philander.

But Agarwal took the lead role despite being hit on the helmet from a bouncer by debutant paceman Anrich Nortje. He went on to hit Nortje for three glorious off drives in one over before lunch. he right-handed batsman put on 138 runs for the second wicket with Cheteshwar Pujara, who made 58, to steady the innings after the fall of Rohit Sharma early in the day.

He was eventually caught in the slips by South African captain Faf du Plessis

-- one of fast bowler Kagiso Rabada's three wickets for the day.

"There were periods where I was getting boundaries very easily, there were periods where they bowled very good line and lengths and were testing the bouncer as well," said Agarwal, who is playing his sixth Test since making his debut last year.

Rabada also claimed Sharma, who edged the ball into the gloves of wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock for 14 in the 10th over.

That was a disappointment for Sharma, who hit twin centuries in his first run as Test opener in Visakhapatnam where India took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Rabada struck again to get Pujara, caught again by du Plessis, just before tea. Pujara, who was dropped by Temba Bavuma before he scored, hit a six and nine fours.

Rabada returned figures of 3-48 in 18.1 overs.

Victory for India in the series will see them beat the record of 10 straight home series wins they share with Australia.

Makeshift Germany held by Argentina

AFP
Dortmund, Oct. 10

An experimental Germany team leaked two second-half goals Wednesday as a weakened Argentina side, minus superstar Lionel Messi, earned a 2-2 draw in a friendly in Dortmund.

Germany flew into a 2-0 lead thanks to first-half goals by Serge Gnabry and Kai Havertz, but Lucas Alario turned the game in the second-half when he came on for Argentina.

The Leverkusen striker pulled a goal back, then set up Lucas Ocampos for the late equaliser against a German team

which included four debutants.

Freiburg pair, defender Robin Koch, a late call-up on Monday who was thrust into a makeshift back three at the last-minute, and striker Luca Waldschmidt started.

Leverkusen forward Nadiem Amiri and Schalke midfielder Suat Serdar came on to make their second-half debuts.

The Germans had already been forced into a hastily re-arranged defence as Koch replaced centre-back Niklas Stark, who pulled out before kick-off with a stomach bug.

Despite 13 withdrawals due to either illness or injury, Germany impressed early against an Argentina

team missing Messi, Sergio Aguero and Angel di Maria.

With Messi suspended for comments made at the Copa America, Juventus' Paulo Dybala partnered Lautaro Martinez up front for Argentina.

This match was a repeat of the 2014 World Cup final, yet Argentina's Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo was the only survivor when the Germans won in Rio de Janeiro.

He partnered Manchester City veteran Nicolas Otamendi in an Argentina defence which crumbled early on.

A week after scoring four goals for Bayern Munich at Tottenham, Gnabry put Germany ahead on 15 minutes.

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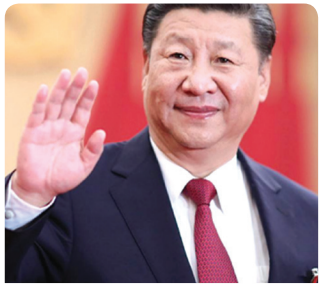


Photo Feature: P.7

THE RISING NEPAL

THE FIRST & THE FOREMOST NATIONAL DAILY

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चाडपर्व हाम्रो सांस्कृतिक धरोहरहरू हुन्।
विधीहरूको संरक्षण गरौं ।
चाडपर्वको मागमा फुजुल सर्व वजारी
उत्पादनमूलक कार्यमा लागौं गरौं ।

नेपाल सरकार
सुदूर तथा सुदूर पश्चिमी मन्त्रालय
सुदूर तथा सुदूर पश्चिमी विभाग

Toward Greater Progress of China-Nepal Friendship across the Himalayas

■ Xi Jinping

I will soon pay a state visit to Nepal, a friendly neighbor of China, at the invitation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari. The visit will be my first, yet the country is no strange place to me. I have long wanted to come to Nepal and see for myself its majestic mountains and rivers and unique culture. I have also met in China visiting Nepali leaders on many occasions and developed with them a deep friendship. I now very much look forward to stepping on this wonderful land to renew friendship and explore cooperation with my Nepali friends. I hope we can together draw up a new blueprint for our bilateral ties.

China and Nepal are close neighbors linked by the same mountains and rivers and enjoy a long-standing friendship. More than 1,600 years ago, the Chinese and Nepali monks Fa Hien and Buddhahadra visited each other's countries and together translated Buddhist scriptures into Chinese. Their translation works have remained influential to this day. In China's Tang Dynasty (618-907), the Nepali Princess Bhrikuti was married to Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo, while the Chinese monk Huen Tsang visited Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha, and left many precious written accounts of his pilgrimage. Then in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), Arniko, the renowned Nepali architect, led a group of artisans to China and presided over the construction of the White Stupa at

investments in Nepal exceeding US\$300 million last year. Nepal has been an active participant in the Belt and Road cooperation, and is working with China on a number of infrastructure projects to build or upgrade highways, ports, airports and power plants. A trans-Himalayan connectivity network is thus taking shape, which will serve not just our two countries but also the region as a whole.

China and Nepal are good neighbors benefiting from people-to-people exchanges
The Zhong Hua Chinese Buddhist



for China and Nepal to respond to the call of our times and step up cooperation for a better future. Working together, the two countries may do just the following:

Deepen strategic communication

It is important that we adopt a strategic and long-term perspective and draw up a blueprint for our bilateral relationship to take it to a new height in this new era. We need to maintain high-level exchanges, enhance political mutual trust, and continue to render mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests. We may also have more exchanges and experience sharing on governance and development to deliver greater benefits to our two peoples.

Broaden practical cooperation

We need to make greater efforts to develop a Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network across the Himalayas. China supports Chinese business investment in Nepal in the four priority cooperation areas of trade and investment, post-disaster reconstruction, energy, and tourism. China welcomes Nepal's participation in the second China International Import Expo to promote exports of its specialty products to China. What's more, China will continue to support post-disaster reconstruction and do what it can to support and assist the betterment of people's lives in Nepal.

Expand people-to-people exchanges

It is important that we encourage

Exclusive

the Miaoying Temple in Beijing among several magnificent structures over the country. There are but a few examples of our past interactions that have inspired a lasting friendship between our peoples.

Since China and Nepal established diplomatic relations in 1955, our two countries have respected each other and trusted and supported each other, setting an example of equality, friendship, and mutually beneficial cooperation between neighboring countries.

China and Nepal are good friends sharing mutual respect and trust

Following the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, we have successfully demarcated our boundaries, turning the great Himalayas into a real bond between our two countries. We support each other on issues of our respective core interests. Nepal stands firm in upholding the one-China policy and prohibits any force from using its territory for anti-China activities. China firmly supports Nepal in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and in pursuing a development path tailored to its national reality.

China and Nepal are good partners for mutually beneficial cooperation

Nepal is China's important trade and development partner in South Asia, with two-way trade reaching US\$1.1 billion and Chinese

Monastery in Lumbini stands as another symbol of our religious and cultural interactions. Nepal is the first South Asian country to be designated an approved destination for Chinese tourists. Between our two countries, there are about 60 flights every week, and over 300,000 mutual visits every year. Eleven pairs of sister cities have been established between the two sides. These growing exchanges have brought our people ever closer and added impetus to the development of both countries.

China and Nepal are good brothers who always stand alongside each other

When a devastating earthquake hit Wenchuan in 2008, the government and people of Nepal made generous donations in support of the rescue and relief efforts in China. Likewise, in the aftermath of the massive earthquake in Nepal in 2015, the Chinese government and people rushed to the aid of Nepal by conducting big rescue operations and supporting post-disaster reconstruction. These are shining examples of how China and Nepal look out for each other like brothers do.

While the Chinese government and people are vigorously pursuing their vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepal", the Chinese government and people are making big strides toward the "two century goals". With the aspirations and future of our people closely linked, it is only natural

more exchanges and cooperation in such areas as education, youth and tourism, and support our airlines in opening more direct flights to increase mutual visits. China supports Nepal in hosting "Visit Nepal Year 2020", and will encourage more Chinese tourists to visit Nepal. China will give more government scholarships to outstanding young Nepali and help train more professionals needed in Nepal's development endeavor. China welcomes more Nepali students to China.

Enhance security cooperation

China supports Nepal in building law-enforcement capacity and will carry out law-enforcement training cooperation with Nepal. We need to scale up border defense contacts to fight transnational crimes more effectively and ensure the safety of our nationals and the smooth flow of trade. We also need to strengthen practical cooperation in mil-to-mil visits, personnel training, and equipment and technologies.

The Nepali often say, "Drop by drop is the water pot filled." There is also a Chinese saying: "The flame runs high when everyone adds wood to the fire." I am convinced that as long as our two countries carry forward our tradition of friendship and keep increasing our exchanges and cooperation, we will together take our friendship across the Himalayas to a new height.

(The writer is the President of the People's Republic of China)



President Xi's visit will further Nepal-China ties, says PM Oli

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli Thursday said that the upcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping would raise the historic and cordial relation between two neighbouring countries Nepal and China to a new height.

Speaking at a discussion programme with former Prime Ministers, foreign ministers and experts today, the Prime Minister said that the long and strong relationship between two countries would gain new heights with the high level visit.

The discussion programme was organised at official residence of the Prime Minister at Baluwatar. Chinese President Xi is coming to Nepal for two-day state visit on October 12 and 13.

Prime Minister Oli said that the government would focus on discussions to strengthen the economic cooperation with China putting national interest of the country at the centre.

The Prime Minister said that

the government would discuss the investment model of Kerung-Kathmandu Railway during the high level Chinese visit to Nepal.

"We will hold discussions on issues of long-term benefits and needs with China, but equal priority will

The government would discuss the investment model of Kerung-Kathmandu Railway during the high level Chinese visit to Nepal.

be given to the issues of short-term needs and cooperation," the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Oli said that the government was taking very clear policy on foreign affairs of the country to maintain balance in its foreign relations.

"National interest, justness in relationship and international credibility are the three foundations assumed by the government to maintain balance in foreign relations. There is no ambiguity in our foreign policy," the Prime Minister said.

Former Prime Minister and president of Nepali Congress Sher Bahadur Deuba said that the visit of President Xi was a great opportunity for Nepal. Deuba wished for the success of Xi's visit to Nepal.

In the discussion, former Prime Ministers Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Madhav Kumar Nepal, Jhala Nath Khanal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and former Chairman of Council of Ministers Khila Raj Regmi had given suggestions to the government regarding the high level visit from China.

In the discussion, the government had informed former Prime Ministers, foreign ministers and experts about the preparations for the upcoming visit of President Xi.

Signing of bilateral agreements on schedule

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to pay a state visit to Nepal on October 12 and 13. He is arriving here on Saturday.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) confirmed that President Xi would come to Nepal on a two-day state visit at the friendly invitation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

Bhandari had invited the Chinese President during her Beijing visit in April to attend the Second Belt and Road Conference.

President Xi would meet his counterpart Bhandari and hold delegation level talks with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, MoFA stated in its visit announcement,

adding, President Bhandari would host a banquet in honour of President Xi and his delegation.

President Xi and Prime Minister Oli would hold delegation level bilateral talks. Following the talks, both leaders will witness the signing

two-day visit to India. Xi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be meeting at Mamallapuram near Chennai on October 11 and 12 for the second 'informal summit' after the Wuhan Summit in April last year.

The top leaders of China

on deepening India-China Closer Development Partnership," the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release issued Wednesday.

Nepal has been engaged with its friendly neighbour to the north for economic and trade partnerships.

With its location between China and India, two economic powerhouses of the world, Nepal is making efforts to improve its linkages with both the neighbours across the Himalayas to the north and down to the Bay of Bengal in the south.

To set the tone for the top level visit from China in 23 years, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said he would work to further Nepal's friendship with China.

of bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding, the statement added.

Senior leaders of Nepal will call on President Xi during his sojourn in Kathmandu.

President Xi will directly fly to Kathmandu on Saturday afternoon from Chennai after concluding his

and India had met for the first informal summit in Wuhan, China on 27 and 28 April 2018.

"The Chennai Informal Summit will provide an opportunity for the two leaders to continue their discussions on overarching issues of bilateral, regional and global importance and to exchange views

Govt concludes preparations to welcome President Xi

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

The government Thursday said that it has completed all the preparations to welcome President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping for his two-day state visit to Nepal from October 12.

Minister for Communication and Information Technology and the government spokesperson Gokul Prasad Baskota said that all the necessary preparations were completed and the government was keenly waiting to make his visit historical, highly productive, and successful from all perspectives.

"The government is all cautious, serious and decided to make President Xi's state visit to Nepal successful," Minister Baskota said while speaking at a press conference organised to make the cabinet decision public this afternoon at the Ministry.

The government is discussing the prioritized agendas and concerns to make

it ready on the table of bilateral agreement and understanding, Minister Baskota said. Both the bilateral nation's stakeholders are preparing and finalizing the agendas based on mutual interest with positive thinking, he said.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli as part of the preparations to welcome Xi, held meetings with the former Prime Ministers of Nepal, foreign ministers, former ambassadors, scholars and ambassador to China and the outcome and voice of that meeting was only one and that is to make this visit historical.

The government hopes for cooperation and support from all quarters to make Xi's visit a success and complete from all perspectives, he said.

The meeting participants have also suggested the government to utilize the visit to make the relation of political leaders and parties reliable.

The government is set to raise agendas related to multi-dimensional connectivity network, under which basically connectivity issues like roads, railways,

fiber optics, cross-border electricity transmission line will be on top priorities, Minister Baskota said.

The government of Nepal is eager to join the connectivity approach of China as dreamed by President Xi himself through Belt and Road Initiatives, he said.

The government is also likely to raise the issues of the Araniko highway up-gradation project, the main gateway between Nepal and China, Rasuwa-Ghahare-Kathmandu tunnel project, and border management. There are subjects related to Kimathanka and Korala as well.

Not only this, the government has also kept some issues of opening north-south corridors, he said.

During the scheduled dialogue between Prime Minister Oli and President Xi, these agendas will get further nurtured, Minister Baskota said.

Connectivity is the medium through which development of Nepal is possible as it would provide a way for linking our productivity and connect the consumers

of the two countries.

"We are hopeful to take this visit to a new height of attraction from its results, message and cooperation perspectives," Minister Baskota said.

As China is a country having trouble-free relation, people of Nepal have also been waiting keenly for a visit of this level from China and the government has not expected any such non-cooperation during this visit, he said.

When asked about possibility of giving a public holiday during his visit on Sunday, Minister Baskota said that the government had not taken such decision yet.

The government has also put in place tight security mechanism throughout his visit, he said.

Meanwhile, the cabinet meeting held on October 4 took various six decisions. They include mandate to work as executive director of Special Economic Zone Authority, Nepal (SEZ) to joint secretary Ram Chandra Dhakal until appointment

of next official, and acceptance of grant assistance of Rs. 2.71 billion for school sector reform programme to be provided by the World Bank.

Similarly, the government has approved 60 temporary posts of gazetted officers for fulfillment in various projects under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resource and Irrigation for the fiscal year 2019/20 A.D.

The cabinet meeting promoted Brigadier General Ashok Raj Sigdel and Gokul Bhandari as Major General and five colonels including Kumar Babu Thapa to the post of Brigadier General. The government decided to allow using national forest area for the road up-gradation project along Nakkhu-Bhainsepati-Bungamati road section.

The cabinet meeting has approved secretary level visit from Ministry of Water Resource to India for taking part in the 7th meeting of Joint Operation Committee and Joint Working Group (JWG) under Nepal-India Power Trade Agreement.



Agendas related to multi-dimensional connectivity network will on focus, under which basically connectivity issues like roads, railways, fiber optics, and cross-border electricity transmission line will get priorities.

Former Chelsea and Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech on Wednesday said he was swapping football for ice hockey after signing to play for a British league team as a goaltender. The 37-year-old Czech, who retired from playing in the summer, said he was reigniting his passion for a sport he first played as a youngster by penning a deal with the Guildford Phoenix. **AFP**



Australia thrash Nepal 5-0

By Anjan Khadka
Canberra, Oct. 10

The powerhouse of Asian football Australia humiliated low ranked visitor Nepal 5-0 at FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 at GIO Stadium, Canberra, Australia on Thursday.

Jamie Maclaren completed a hat-trick and Harry Souttar netted two goals for English Perimer League (EPL) and Europe football experienced Australian team. After suffering defeat Nepal national team head coach Jhon Kalin said the first 25 minutes were bad. "We could not play well in the first 25 minutes but we improved in our performance in the second half."

"This is tough and quality team and they continuously put pressure on us in the first half and we played pretty well in the second half. It is a good experience for Nepal."

"Nepali people coming to support in Canberra were fantastic as their cheering up helped Nepali players to perform well in the second half," coach Kalin added.

Australian Coach Graham Arnold said they wanted to register huge victory in our home match. "Our boys played very well as our planning and we put pressure on visitor from the starting to end of the match. My boys played very well in the first half and our performance was down due to key players changes in the second half. Nepal worked very hard during the match."

Host Australia dominated the match as Maclaren opened the account for Australia in the 6th minutes.

Maclaren scored in a clear-ball Nepali goalie Kiran Chemjong in a powerful free kick off Craig Goodwin.

He doubled the score in the 19th



Australia's Jamie Maclaren celebrates one of his three goals against Nepal at GIO Stadium in Canberra. (Photo:Getty Images)

minutes through heading goal assist by Rhyan Bert Grant.

International debutant Harry Souttar made scoreline 3-0 in the 24th minutes through header in the flank cross off Craig Goodwin.

Harry made score line 4-0 for home team after lack of coordination between defenders Anant Tamang, Dinesh Rajbanshi and goalie Kiran Chemjong.

Maclaren completed his individual hat-trick to seal the match 5-0 for home team. Unmarked Maclaren scored from inside the box to take full advantage of poor defensive of Nepal. He scored in a brilliant assist by his team mate Jakson Irvine from the edge of box.

According to Australian Football Federation A total 18,563 football fans arrived at GIO Stadium, Canberra. Out of 18,563 around 10,000 Nepali fans

were present in the arena from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and others places of Australia.

Nepal kicked off their Qualifiers with 7-0 defeat against Kuwait and made a heroic come back on its second registering 2-0 victory over Chinese.

Nepal football team had travelled around 10,000 KM from Kathmandu with a aim of good performance. Nepal football team arrive Sydney in 3rd of October. They conducted six days long training camp to accommodate with Australian weather.

Nepal entered a field without their first choice striker Bimal Gharti Magar and defender Bikram Lama.

Australia registered a 3-0 comfortable victory over Kuwait in their first match of the qualifiers.

Nepal will next meet Jordan in their last way match on 15th of October.

Nepal suffer 6-wicket loss to Oman

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 10

Nepal ended their Oman Pentangular T20 International Series with six wicket loss against host Oman at AI Amerat on Thursday.

After invited to bat first, Nepal collapsed in 11 overs with just 64 runs in the scoreboard. Oman, in reply, successfully chased the 65-run victory target losing four wickets in 11.5 overs.

Suraj Kumar hammered not out 30-ball 42 to help Oman ease to victory. Khawal Ali (9), Aamir Kaleem (8), Naseem Khushi (1) and Sandeep Goud (3 not out) were the other contributors for Oman.

Earlier, Nepal lost their opener Ishan Pandey (2) in the first over and captain Paras Khadka (4-ball 5) in the third over to make a poor start.

Karan KC took two wickets while Sandeep Lamichhane and Sompal Kami claimed one wicket apiece for Nepal.

Aarif Sheikh and Dipendra Singh Airee socred a double figure for Nepal. Aarif smashed one six and two fours to score 13-ball 20 before being out in the sixth over. Airee smashed 6-ball 11 with two boundaries.



Binod Bhandari (4), Sandeep Jora (0), Sompal Kami (8), Karan KC (8) and Abinash Bohara (2) returned to pavilion with cheap score.

Aamir Kaleem picked five wickets while Bilal Khan took two wickets for Oman. Mohammad Nadeem and Khawar Ali also dismissed one batsman each for home team.

This is the Nepal's lowest total so far scored in the shortest format. Earlier, Nepal had been packed up for 69 against Netherlands and Hong Kong in 2015 and 2014 respectively.

In the other matches of the Pentangular Series, Nepal lost to Ireland and defeated Netherlands and Hong Kong.

Invincible Oman topped the table with eight points while Ireland remained at the second position with six points from three win and one loss. Nepal trailed at the third position with four points. The Netherlands collected two points and Hong Kong ended without any win in the series.

Weather

Friday

Sunrise at 6:02
Sunset at 5:40



Forecast for Nepal (Friday)

Partly to generally cloudy in the eastern region and partly cloudy in the central and western hilly regions and mainly fair in the rest of the country. Isolated brief rain is possible at one or two places of the hilly regions.

Thursday's Weather Record

Stations	Max. temp. (C)	Min. temp. (C)	Rain (mm)
Dipayal	32.5	19.6	0.0
Dadeldhura	22.4	12.1	0.0
Dhangadi	32.6	21.5	4.6
Brendranagar	30.3	18.3	0.0
Nepalgunj	33.4	22.0	0.0
Jumla	23.3	9.7	0.0
Dang	30.2	18.6	0.0
Pokhara	28.6	19.1	11.7
Bhairahawa	32.4	22.5	0.0
Simara	32.5	22.0	0.0
Kathmandu	27.2	15.0	0.0
Okhaldhunga	22.7	14.0	0.0
Taplejung	22.5	15.0	1.0
Dhankuta	26.6	16.9	0.0
Biratnagar	33.4	22.8	0.0
Jomsom	22.0	7.0	0.0*
Dharan	31.3	22.7	0.0*
Lumle	22.0	13.4	0.0*
Jankapur	33.8	23.2	0.0*
Jiri	22.8	10.1	0.0*

Expected Temp.: 26 - 28 °C
Rain Probability: ... %

NEPAL RASTRA BANK

FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

EXCHANGE RATES

October 11, 2019

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
Indian Rupee	100	Rs. 160.00	Rs. 160.15

Open Market Exchange Rates

For the purpose of Nepal Rastra Bank

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
U.S. Dollar	1	Rs. 113.42	Rs. 114.02
Euro	1	Rs. 125.12	Rs. 125.78
Pound Sterling	1	Rs. 139.03	Rs. 139.77
Swiss Franc	1	Rs. 114.25	Rs. 114.85
Australian Dollar	1	Rs. 76.72	Rs. 77.13
Canadian Dollar	1	Rs. 85.19	Rs. 85.65
Singapore Dollar	1	Rs. 82.37	Rs. 82.81
Japanese Yen	10	Rs. 10.56	Rs. 10.62
Chinese Yuan	1	Rs. 15.92	Rs. 16.01
Saudi Arab Riyal	1	Rs. 30.24	Rs. 30.40
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Swedish Kronar	1	Rs. 11.53	Rs. 11.60
Danish Kronar	1	Rs. 16.75	Rs. 16.84
Hong Kong Dollar	1	Rs. 14.46	Rs. 14.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	1	Rs. 373.09	Rs. 375.07
Bahrain Dinar	1	Rs. 300.85	Rs. 302.44

Note: Under the present system the open market exchange rates quoted by different banks may differ.

Sri Lanka whitewash Pakistan

AFP
Lahore, Oct. 10

Inexperienced Sri Lanka completed a 3-0 clean-sweep in their Twenty20 series with world number one Pakistan on Wednesday with a 13-run victory in Lahore.

Chasing a modest 148-run target, Pakistan were on course for victory with Haris Sohail's 50-ball 52 with four boundaries and a six but leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga turned the tables with 3-21 to restrict the hosts to 134-6 in 20 overs. Hasaranga had Sohail stumped in the 16th over and then dismissed Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed (16-ball 17) in the 18th to give Sri Lanka victory on a match day designated as Pink Day for breast cancer awareness.

"It's really a good victory," said Sri Lankan skipper Dasun Shanaka. "All the players were bonded, that was the key to our success. "There are no extraordinary players here -- they're all talented, but the unit was the secret. If we play smart cricket, there's always a possibility to win."

Agarwal hits ton as India dominate South Africa

AFP
Pune, Oct. 10

Mayank Agarwal hit his second century in successive matches on the opening day of the second Test against South Africa Thursday and said his side should aim for a 500-run first innings.

The opener, who made a double century in India's opening Test win, scored 108 after the hosts elected to bat.

India were 273-3 when bad light forced an early end to play, with skipper Virat Kohli unbeaten on 63 and vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane on 18.

Kohli and Rahane put on 75 runs for the fourth wicket to thwart South Africa's determined bowlers who kept them under pressure as the gloom crept in. Agarwal, 28, said he was thrilled with his performance.

"The team is in a good position, winning the toss, batting first and with one batsman short, it's a good thing to make runs... 450-500 would be nice," Agarwal said. "Try and get big runs in the first innings... (that) could help us in case we don't want



to bat again. It could really put pressure on the South Africans."

Kohli, leading the Test side for the 50th time, reached his half-century with a boundary off fast bowler Vernon Philander.

But Agarwal took the lead role despite being hit on the helmet from a bouncer by debutant paceman Anrich Nortje. He went on to hit Nortje for three glorious off drives in one over before lunch. he right-handed batsman put on 138 runs for the second wicket with Cheteshwar Pujara, who made 58, to steady the innings after the fall of Rohit Sharma early in the day.

He was eventually caught in the slips by South African captain Faf du Plessis

-- one of fast bowler Kagiso Rabada's three wickets for the day.

"There were periods where I was getting boundaries very easily, there were periods where they bowled very good line and lengths and were testing the bouncer as well," said Agarwal, who is playing his sixth Test since making his debut last year.

Rabada also claimed Sharma, who edged the ball into the gloves of wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock for 14 in the 10th over.

That was a disappointment for Sharma, who hit twin centuries in his first run as Test opener in Visakhapatnam where India took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Rabada struck again to get Pujara, caught again by du Plessis, just before tea. Pujara, who was dropped by Temba Bavuma before he scored, hit a six and nine fours.

Rabada returned figures of 3-48 in 18.1 overs.

Victory for India in the series will see them beat the record of 10 straight home series wins they share with Australia.

Makeshift Germany held by Argentina

AFP
Dortmund, Oct. 10

An experimental Germany team leaked two second-half goals Wednesday as a weakened Argentina side, minus superstar Lionel Messi, earned a 2-2 draw in a friendly in Dortmund.

Germany flew into a 2-0 lead thanks to first-half goals by Serge Gnabry and Kai Havertz, but Lucas Alario turned the game in the second-half when he came on for Argentina.

The Leverkusen striker pulled a goal back, then set up Lucas Ocampos for the late equaliser against a German team

which included four debutants.

Freiburg pair, defender Robin Koch, a late call-up on Monday who was thrust into a makeshift back three at the last-minute, and striker Luca Waldschmidt started.

Leverkusen forward Nadiem Amiri and Schalke midfielder Suat Serdar came on to make their second-half debuts.

The Germans had already been forced into a hastily re-arranged defence as Koch replaced centre-back Niklas Stark, who pulled out before kick-off with a stomach bug.

Despite 13 withdrawals due to either illness or injury, Germany impressed early against an Argentina

team missing Messi, Sergio Aguero and Angel di Maria.

With Messi suspended for comments made at the Copa America, Juventus' Paulo Dybala partnered Lautaro Martinez up front for Argentina.

This match was a repeat of the 2014 World Cup final, yet Argentina's Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo was the only survivor when the Germans won in Rio de Janeiro.

He partnered Manchester City veteran Nicolas Otamendi in an Argentina defence which crumbled early on.

A week after scoring four goals for Bayern Munich at Tottenham, Gnabry put Germany ahead on 15 minutes.

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